3

PRESENTED BY

kakifly

K-ON!

K-ON! 3

PRESENTED BY

kakifly

C H A R A C T E R S

K-ON! CHARACTER INTRO kakifly

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE GOING OUT WITH EVERYONE TO VISIT THE SHRINE FOR NEW YEAR'S?

...ONEE-CHAN?

IT'S THE NEW YEAR.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU.

YEAH, I WILL, BUT I JUST CAN'T FORCE MYSELF OUT FROM UNDER THIS HEATED TABLE.

HWUH?

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D BETTER START GETTING READY SOON...?

PHEW!

BUT YOU WERE JUST UP!!

SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY TROUBLE DRAGGING HERSELF OUT WHEN SHE NEEDS TO GO PEE...

すくっ SHWP

OHP. GOTTA PEE.

THE PEOPLE AT THE POST OFFICE MUST REALLY BE BUSTING BUTT!

LOOKS LIKE WE ALREADY GOT SOME NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

OH?

NEWSPAPER. NEWSPAPER AND...

THESE ARE ALL SO ELABORATE.

2009
Happy New Year
THIS YEAR TRY LIVING RIGHT FOR A CHANGE.
-MIO
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

moo
Azusa Nakano

A Happy New Year!
COW
TAIL
RUMP
TONGUE
YUI HIRASAWA

WHOA...

etings for the New Year
Thank you for the kindness and friendship you showed me last year. I hope that the coming year will be just as wonderful.
Tsumugi Kotobuki

I COM-PLETELY FORGOT TO SEND OUT NEW YEAR'S CARDS THIS YEAR...

.....

GUESS I'D BETTER START GETTING READY SOON.

STILL IN PAJAMAS

WONDER WHAT I SHOULD WEAR FOR THE NEW YEAR'S SHRINE VISIT.

MAYBE I SHOULD DRESS UP IN A KIMONO...

HA HA HA

イラッ

IRK

HM?

プルルルルッ

BRRRING

BUT I DON'T WANT RITSU TO MAKE FUN OF ME AGAIN, SO I THINK I'LL JUST GO CASUAL THIS YEAR.

PHONE: RITSU

Uh, Mio? You wouldn't happen to have—

I AM NOT GONNA FALL FOR IT AGAIN THIS YEAR, SO DON'T EVEN TRY!!

SNAP

HOW COME SHE'S YELLING...? I WAS JUST GONNA ASK IF SHE HAD ANY EXTRA NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

じ——..

STUNNED

…ん

ほわ～～～…

WHOA...

REALLY!!

YOU LOOK SOOO CUTE, MUGI-CHAN!!

I'M SO SORRY. I HAD SOMETHING TO DO THIS MORNING AND DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHANGE BEFORE COMING.

MUGI LOOKS REALLY GOOD IN A KIMONO.

.....
.....

...YOU CAN SHUT UP.

NOW I REALLY WISH I WOULD'VE COME DRESSED UP IN A KIMONO TOO.

...SOMETIMES I'M TRULY AMAZED AT THE STUFF YOU COME UP WITH.

BECAUSE YOUR FORTUNES ARE WRITTEN ON THE BACK! THESE ARE MY NEW "ECO" NEW YEAR'S CARDS—SAVES ME THE HASSLE OF MAILING, AND SAVES US THE COST OF BUYING FORTUNES!!

HERE YOU GO—NEW YEAR'S CARDS! EVERYONE DRAW ONE!

...WHY ARE WE DRAWING?

SORRY THESE WERE LATE, EVERY-ONE!!

BAD

ALL RIGHT... I'LL TAKE THIS ONE.

BUT JUST A MINUTE AGO YOU WERE COMPLIMENTING ME...

"BEST"!

"BEST"!

HEH-HEH. YOU ALWAYS DRAW THE SECOND CARD FROM THE RIGHT, DON'T YOU, MIO? I KNEW IT!!

パン CLAP パン CLAP

WELL! WOULDYA LISTEN TO THE MOUTH ON THIS KID! SINCE WHEN'DYA LEARN TO BACKTALK LIKE THAT– !?

...ISN'T THAT MORE WHAT YOU SHOULD BE WISHING FOR, RITSU-SENPAI?

LEMME GUESS— "PLEASE GOD, LET MY BREASTS GROW THIS YEAR." AM I RIGHT?

SO AZU-MEOW, WHAT'D YOU PRAY FOR?

I WISHED FOR WONDERFUL THINGS FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB THIS YEAR!

...AS IF YOU HAVE TO ASK.

BUT SERIOUSLY, WHAT'D YOU WISH FOR?

♪

FOR MUGI-CHAN'S SNACKS!

FOR PRAC-TICE!

WELL, WELL... SHE'S ALL RARIN' TO GO FOR THE NEW TERM, ISN'T SHE?

AZU-MEOW!

HEY, SENPAI! GOOD MORN-ING!

I, UH... I MEAN, FOR PRACTICE TOO. CANNOT WAIT TO PRACTICE.

,3°く——っ PUFF

YEAH, ME TOO!

TOTALLY CAN'T WAIT, HUH!

HEE-HEE-HEE. I'M JUST EXCITED TO GET BACK INTO THE CLUB-ROOM!

AH... I'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF STUFF LIKE THAT ON TV LATELY.

WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT DOING SOME KIND OF LIVE EVENT? I MEAN, THERE'RE TONS OF EVENTS AND STUFF WHERE HIGH SCHOOLERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GET TOGETHER TO COMPETE.

I SAY WE SET SOME GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

HEY... MIO?

LIVE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ON TV

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE MIO'S JUST GONNA SAY SHE DOESN'T WANNA DO IT I MEAN—

I MEAN GOALS FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB!!

I GOT ONE!

MY GOAL IS TO LEARN HOW TO SNAP MY FINGERS !!

HERE WE GO AGAIN...

SQUEEZE むにゅ♥

OH MIIIIO-CHAN. ♡

WHAT!? YOU STILL CAN'T READ MUSIC!?

UM... WELL... IN THAT CASE, MY GOAL IS TO LEARN HOW TO READ MUSIC.

IF YOU'RE LISTEN-ING, THEN ANSWER, FOR CHRIS-SAKE..

I WAS LISTEN-ING, DAMN IT!!

DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD START SMALLER !!?

I GOT ONE!

LET'S MAKE OUR MAJOR-LABEL DEBUT THIS YEAR!

W... WELL, YEAH. I GUESS THAT'S WHY.

SO MIO-CHAN, THE REASON YOU DON'T WANT TO DO A LIVE SHOW IS BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID TO GO OUT AND PERFORM IN FRONT OF PEOPLE?

YEAH, WELL, I JUST DON'T TH NK OUR GOALS HAVE TO INVOLVE PERFORM-ING IN FRONT OF A HUGE CROWD OF PEOPLE LIKE THAT.

IN THAT CASE, I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION!!

BEAM

あっ

COME ON, I'M NOT THAT GOOD.

I JUST WANT EVERY-ONE TO HEAR HOW GOOD YOU ARE.

BUT MIO-SENPAI, YOU'RE SO GOOD AT PLAYING BASS.

Y-YEAH. GOOD IDEA. SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION!

I HAVE THE PERFECT IDEA.

RITSU-SENPAI ...!!

MIO!! WHEN YOU PROM-SED ME WE'D MAKE OUR BIG DEBUT TOGETH-ER, WAS THAT ALL JUST A LIE!?

BUT... HOW COME MUGI'S SO GUNG-HO ABOUT THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN??

LET'S DO THIS!

THIS ISN'T THE MUG -CHAN WE KNOW.

GEEZ... WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND DO THAT? I ALMOST HAD HER CON-VINCED.

UHP. YOU KNEW?

... WHAT'S TH S, EYE-DROPS?

OH, I'M SURE SHE'S HIDING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

GLANCE GLANCE

BUT ALL THAT ASIDE, WHERE'D MIO-CHAN RUN OFF TO...? SHE'S THE WHOLE REASON WE'RE HERE.

WEL-COME!!

ビクッ

JUMP

THERE!! FOUND HER!!

YES! ♪

NOW I SEE— YOU WERE THINKING WE SHOULD HAVE MIO PRACTICE HER PEOPLE SKILLS BY GETTING A JOB WAITING ON CUSTOMERS

UUUUH. RITSU, HOW COME YOU GUYS AREN'T EMBARRASSED WEARING THESE OUTFITS!?

COME COME, NOW. YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ANY PRACTICE HIDING THERE IN THE CORNER.

...STILL, DON'CHA THINK IT'S KINDA WEIRD HOW ALL FIVE OF US MANAGED TO GET HIRED AT THE SAME TIME?

MWA-HA-HA-HA

...WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE DEVELOPED AN IMMUNITY, THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE WE KNOW...

I WONDER WHAT THE HECK MUGI'S FATHER ACTUALLY DOES FOR A LIVING ...

MY FATHER RUNS THIS CAFÉ. IT'S AFFILIATED WITH HIS COMPANY.

THE CUPS AND PLATES THEY USE HERE ARE SO PRETTY.

LOOK— THERE'S A CUSTOMER CALLING. NOW GO TAKE CARE OF 'EM!!

MWEH !?

EXCUSE ME.

I-IS THAT SO?

UH-WUH-WUH EUROPE..!

WE OBTAIN ALL OUR TABLEWARE DIRECTLY FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN EUROPE.

WELCOME TO... I MEAN, UM, WHATEVER THE NAME OF THIS PLACE IS...

STAMMER

STUTTER

UMM... UHH... I, UH... UM... WELCOME?

WOW, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU GET IT ALL... UNH?

ACTUALLY, ALL THE TEA I SERVE AT THE POP MUSIC CLUB COMES FROM THIS CAFÉ. I JUST SORT OF TAKE IT.

. YEAH, BUT THE CUSTOMERS REALLY SEEM TO LIKE HER.

OH BROTHER.. SHE'S COMPLETELY HOPELESS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN GULPING DOWN THIS HIGH-CLASS STUFF LIKE CAMELS THE WHOLE TIME!!

...SO THIS IS WHY YOU WERE SO EAGER TO GET US HERE...

KACHIK

KACHIK

YOU'VE GONE AND TURNED INTO SAWA-CHAN, HAVEN'T YOU?

C'MON, MIO, YOU HAVE SOME CAKE TOO!!

JUST K DDING !!

CAKE.

YES, SIR!

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU LADIES TOOK YOUR BREAK?

I REALLY THINK YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS HAVE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER!

GREAT JOB TODAY, MIO-SENPAI!

OH, MIO DOESN'T NEED A BREAK.

MIO-SAN, YOU TOO.

...MIO-CHAN?

ARE YOU MAD?

AHH... IS THAT SO?

ガーン

SHOCK

SHE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION.

WHOA— MIO!! PULL YOUR-SELF TOGETH-ER!!

ぷしゅ～～

PSHHHHT

OMI-GOD!! SHE'S TOTALLY PASS-ING OUT!!

I'LL KILL THEM LATER !!

POUT

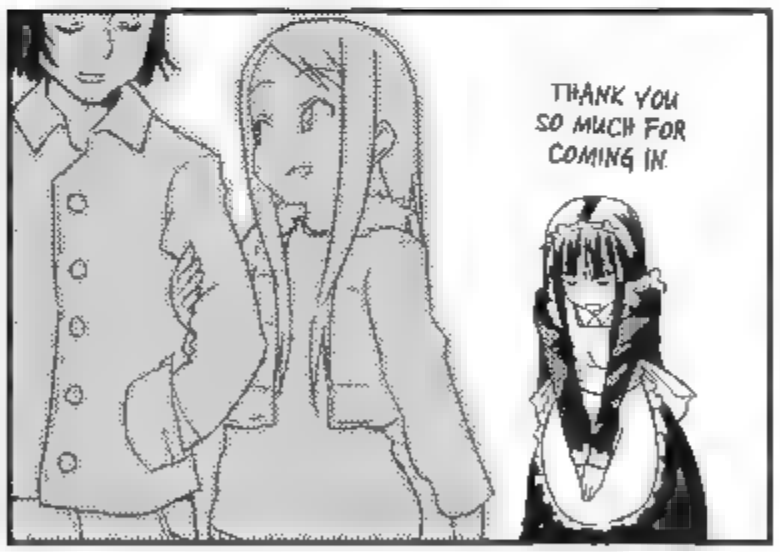
THIS CAKE IS AWESOME —!!

GOT IT!
THESE ARE FOR TABLES TWO AND TABLE SEVEN

I... I'M FINE. I'M OKAY.
ハッキリ
HAGGARD
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY? YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T TRY TO PUSH IT...

RIGHT, SO THAT'S ONE ASSAM TEA AND...

PEOPLE I'M CLOSE TO...
HOW ABOUT TRYING TO PRETEND THE CUSTOMERS ARE PEOPLE YOU FEEL CLOSE TO AND ENGAGING THEM FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW?

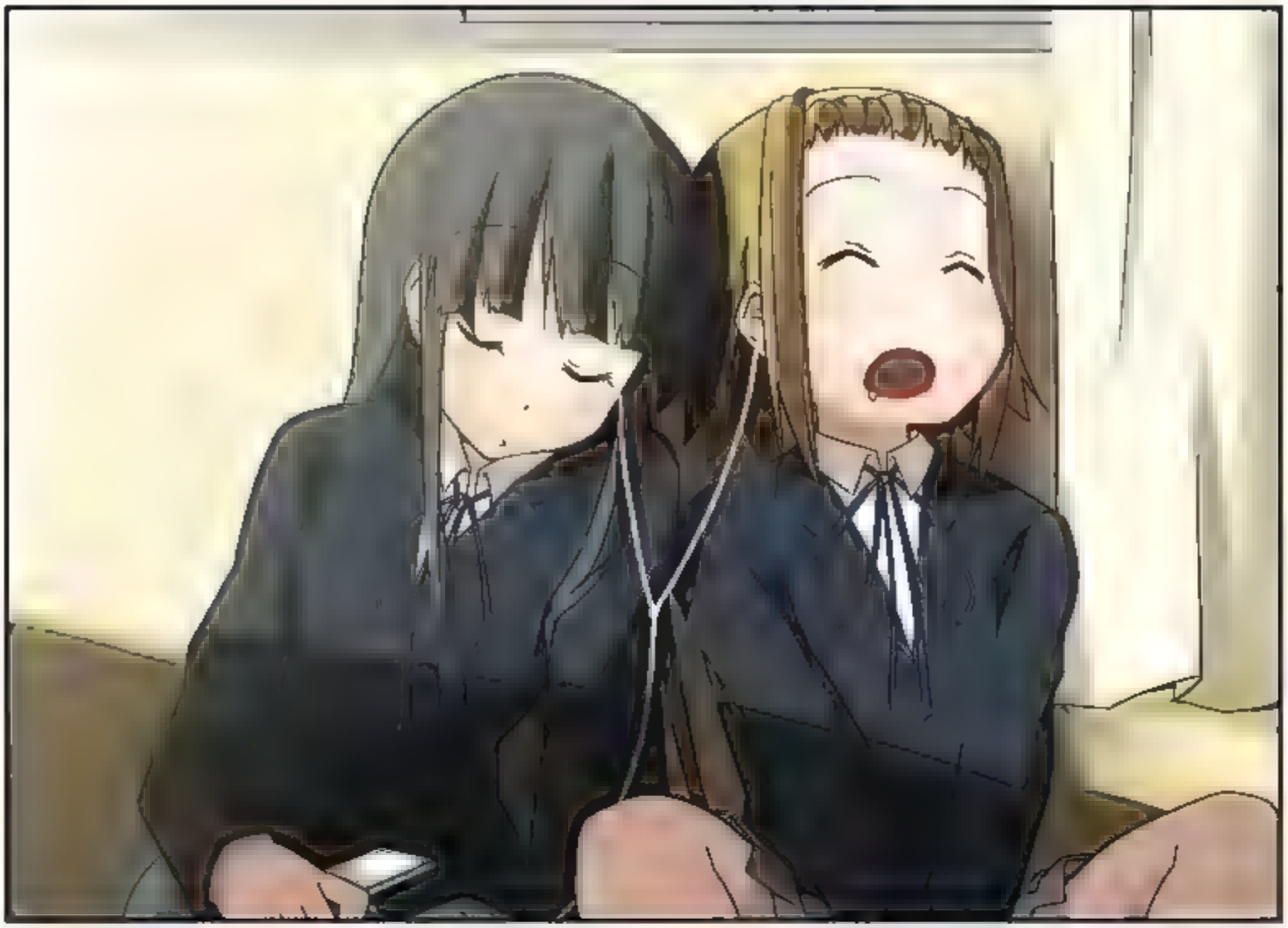

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING IN.

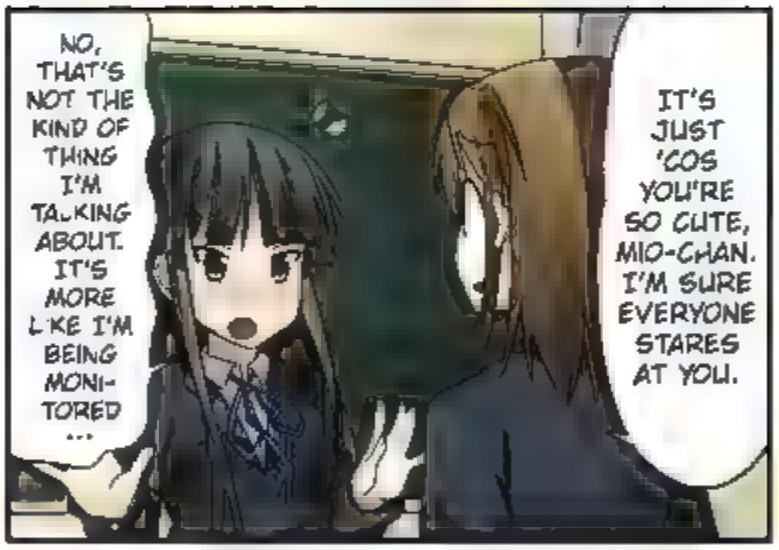
I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT YET!!
HEY WAITRESS!! WHERE'S MY ORDER!?
...AND SOME CAKE, AND THEN I'LL HAVE-
UM, LEMME SEE, I WANT A PARFAIT AND SOME ICE CREAM.
DEMANDING THIS AND THAT

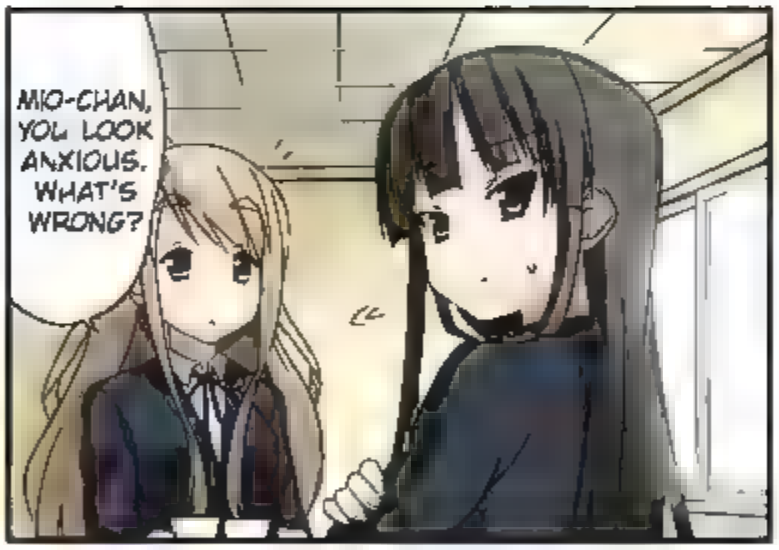
MM-HM!
MM-HM!

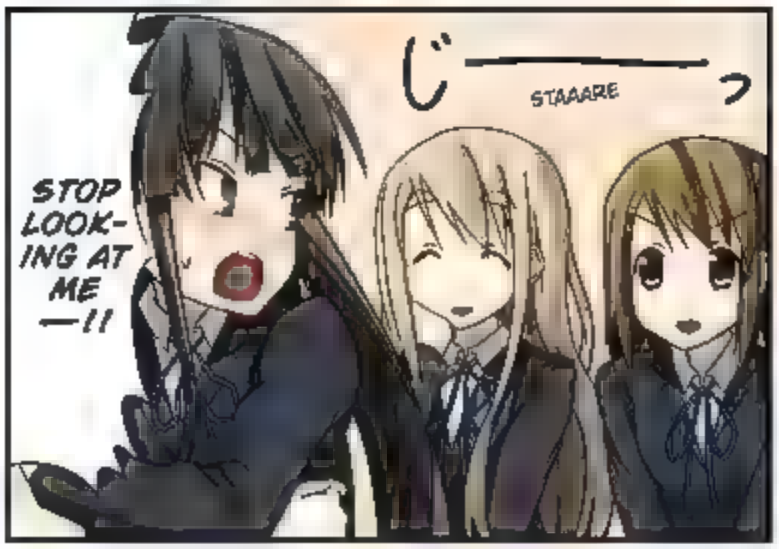
HUH?
...THAT MAKES ME FEEL REALLY ANNOYED FOR SOME REASON.

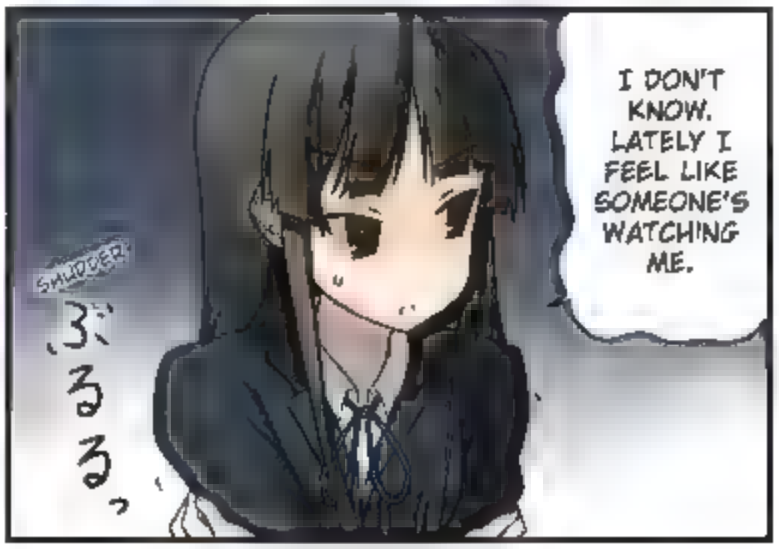
RELAAAX.
OW, OW, OW
PULL
STRETCH
STRETCH
THANKS!
MIO-CHAN, YOU DID A GREAT JOB YESTER-DAY.
WELL, AT ANY RATE... NOW YOU'RE OKAY WITH GETTING UP IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, RIGHT?
OH, IT'S BETTER
EH-HEH-HEH... YOU REALLY THINK SO?
AND BY THE END OF IT, YOU WERE GETTING REALLY GOOD AT DEALING WITH CUSTOM-ERS!!
ALL RIGHT, THEN— NEXT WILL BE THE LIVE PERFOR-MANCE!!
YEAH! I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FEEL SHY ABOUT WORKING IN CUSTOMER SERVICE AGAIN.
EVEN TODAY, THE SMILE ON YOUR FACE LOOKS SO EASY AND NATURAL— IT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU.
ALL THAT WORK FOR NOTHING!!
BUT HER SMILE IS SO PER-FECT!!
NO, THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN IT'S NOT EVEN IN THE SAME BALLPARK.
GRIN
WAS IT REALLY THAT HARD ON HER!!?
HELP ME.
...THE TRUTH IS MY FACE HAS BEEN FROZEN LIKE THIS SINCE YESTERDAY I CAN'T GET IT TO RELAX.

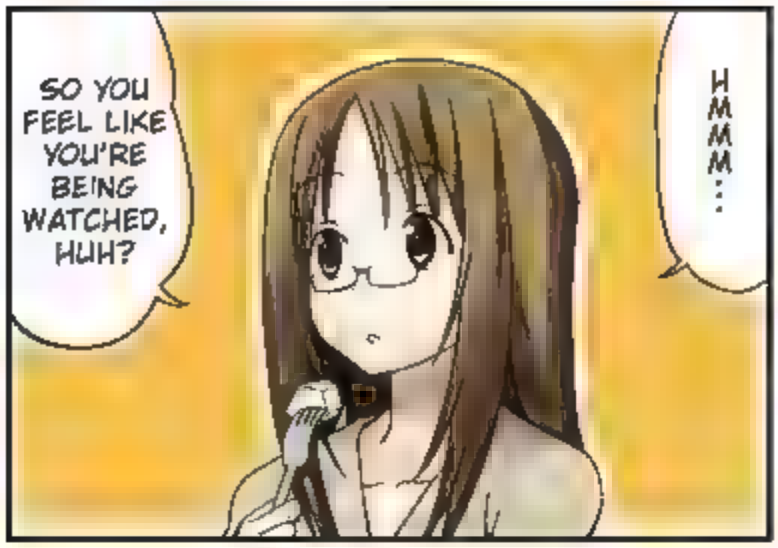


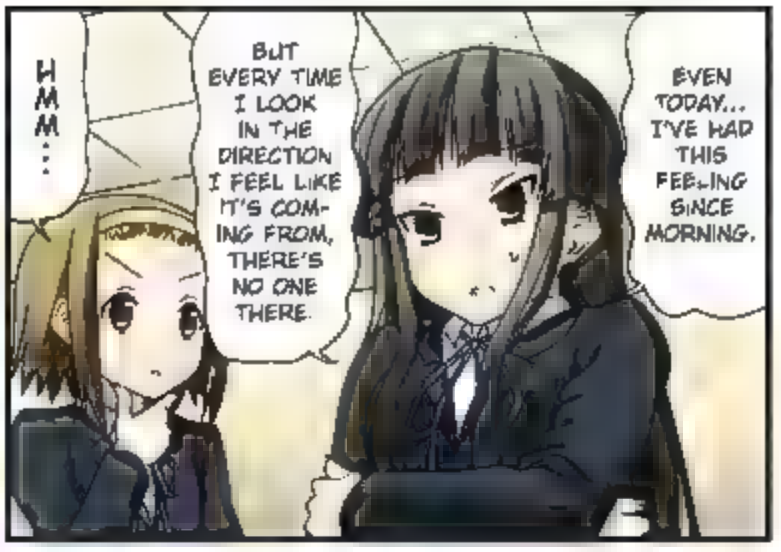

NO, THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING I'M TALKING ABOUT. IT'S MORE LIKE I'M BEING MONI-TORED ...
IT'S JUST 'COS YOU'RE SO CUTE, MIO-CHAN. I'M SURE EVERYONE STARES AT YOU.

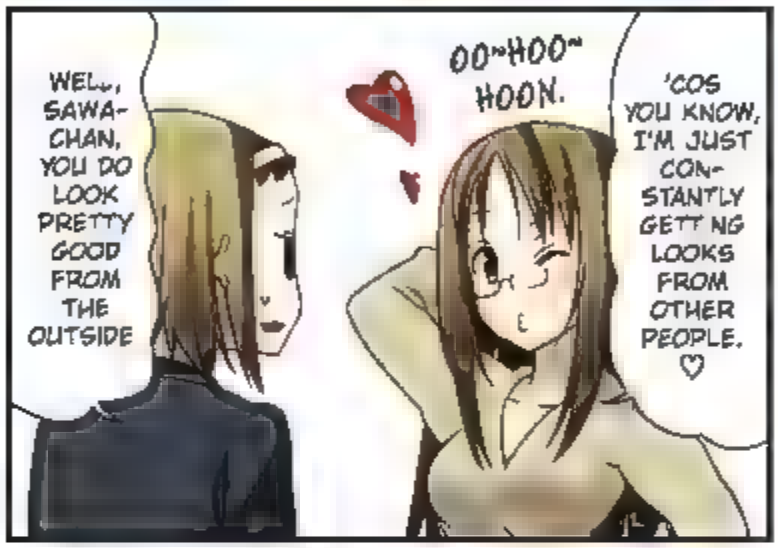

MIO-CHAN, YOU LOOK ANXIOUS. WHAT'S WRONG?

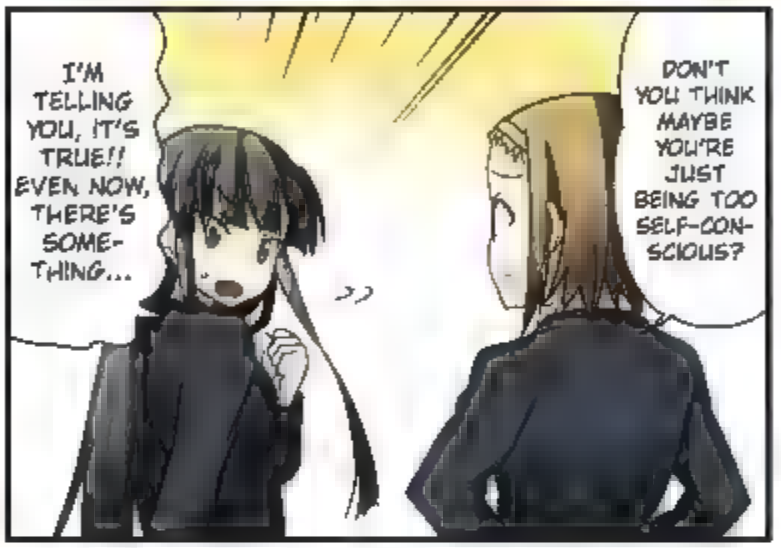

じ——————っ
STAAARE
STOP LOOK-ING AT ME —!!

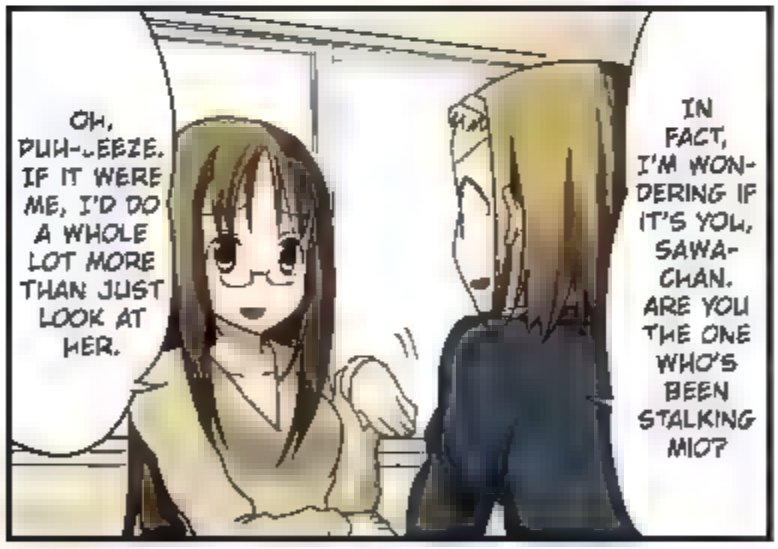

I DON'T KNOW. LATELY I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME.
SHUDDER
ぶるるっ

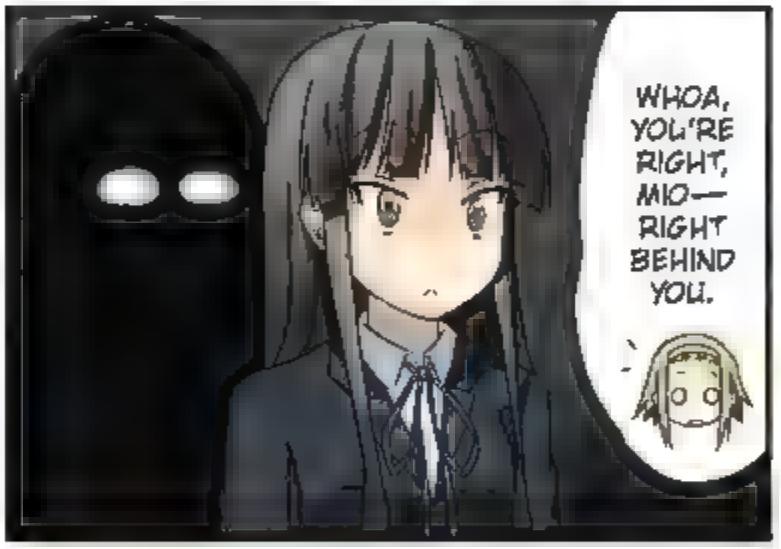

SO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING WATCHED, HUH?
HMMM...

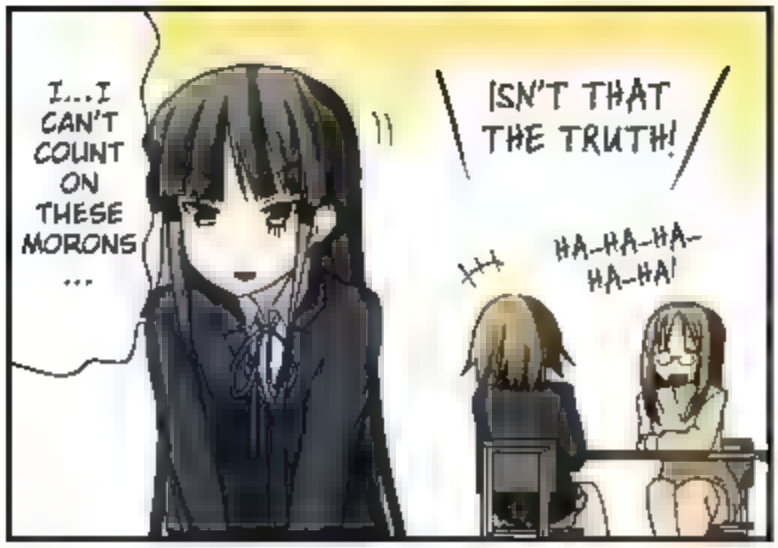

HMM...
BUT EVERY TIME I LOOK IN THE DIRECTION I FEEL LIKE IT'S COMING FROM, THERE'S NO ONE THERE.
EVEN TODAY... I'VE HAD THIS FEELING SINCE MORNING.

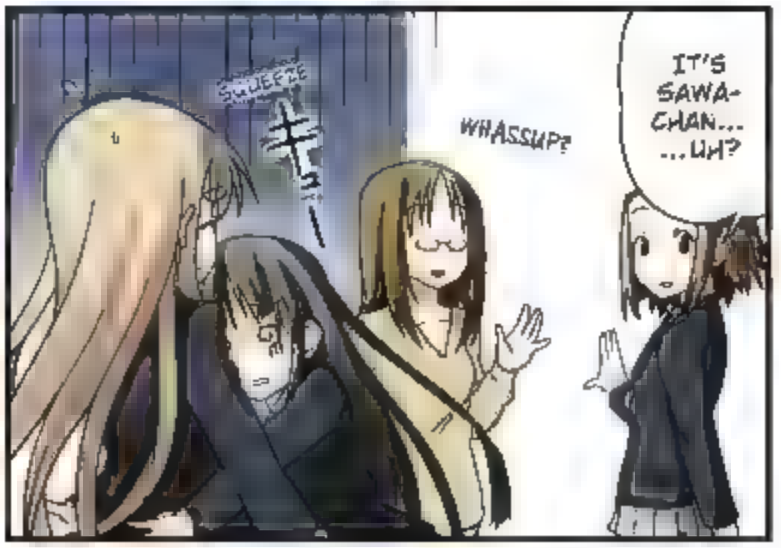

WELL, SAWA-CHAN, YOU DO LOOK PRETTY GOOD FROM THE OUTSIDE
OO~HOO~ HOON.
'COS YOU KNOW, I'M JUST CONSTANTLY GETTING LOOKS FROM OTHER PEOPLE. ♡


I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TRUE!! EVEN NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING...
DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE YOU'RE JUST BEING TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS?


OH, PUH-LEEZE. IF IT WERE ME, I'D DO A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN JUST LOOK AT HER.
IN FACT, I'M WONDERING IF IT'S YOU, SAWA-CHAN. ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S BEEN STALKING MIO?


WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT, MIO— RIGHT BEHIND YOU.


I...I CAN'T COUNT ON THESE MORONS ...
ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!


SQUEEZE
WHASSUP?
IT'S SAWA-CHAN... ...UH?

OH, YOU'VE GOT A VISI-TOR?
MANABE-SAN, ARE YOU HERE?

HUH? OH, LONG TIME NO SEE. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM?
NODOKA .?

I'M JUST BRINGING THE SUC-CESSION PAPERS DOWN.
SEN-PAI! IS SOME-THING THE MAT-TER?

WHAT!? YOU FEEL LIKE SOME-ONE'S WATCH-ING YOU ALL THE TIME!?
ACTU-ALLY...

ACTU-ALLY, THE FORMER STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT.
NICE TO MEET YOU, AKIYAMA-SAN.
NODOKA, WHO IS THIS PERSON?
IT'S THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT THIS IS MEGUMI SOKABE-SAN.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF STALKER CREEP. . ALTHOUGH I HAVE A HARD TIME BEL EVING THERE'S A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER ANYWHERE INSIDE THE SCHOOL

AAH!! I'M REALLY SORRY !!
...I SHOULD'VE GUESSED SOMEONE FROM THE POP MUSIC CLUB WOULDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.

IT'S JUST...I'M JUST SO HAPPY SOMEONE FINALLY GAVE ME A NORMAL REACTION ...!
HOW EXACTLY ARE THEY TREATING YOU IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB??
WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT?

コトッ
CLINK
HERE— HAVE SOME TEA.
A STALKER, HUH?
THAT'S A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION.
DON'T BE SILLY. IT'S FINE.
SORRY, IT'S NOT VERY GOOD TEA, NOT LIKE WHAT YOU GET IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB.
MANABE-SAN, CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO REPORT THIS TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AS SOON AS WE'RE DONE HERE?
ABSOLUTELY.
SOMEONE FROM HER FAN CLUB.. MAYBE
BWUR
BUT GETTING BACK TO THE ISSUE AT HAND, WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK WOULD STALK MIO?
OH, IT'S NO TROUBLE.
I MEAN, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S A STALKER OR NOT
BUT... I'M NOT SURE IF YOU REALLY NEED TO GO TO THAT MUCH TROUBLE YET..
IT'S TOUGH BEING FAMOUS, ISN'T IT? ♡
HUHGH.. AND I WAS TRYING SO HARD TO FORGET ABOUT THEM.
I WISH OUR "CLUB PRESIDENT" COULD BE HERE TO HEAR THIS...
ONE OF THE STUDENTS AT THIS SCHOOL IS GOING THROUGH A HARD TIME, AND I JUST WANT TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP OUT

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP.

ANYWAY, I'D BETTER BE RUNNING ALONG NOW.

CLACK

EH!?

FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, YOU SURE DO SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE POP MUSIC CLUB, DON'T YOU?

YOU EVEN KNEW MY NAME

EH —?

WAIT, SEN-PAI—YOU DROPPED SOME-THING.

UHH... WELL, THAT'S 'COS, UM...

YEAH, AND COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE EVEN KNEW ABOUT HOW YOU GUYS AL-WAYS HAVE TEA PARTIES IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB.

I-I JUST PICKED THAT UP OFF THE FLOOR IN THE HALL-WAY!!

...A "MIO AKIYAMA FAN CLUB" MEMBER-SHIP CARD ...?

SWIPE

WHAT!? I NEVER TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

YEAH, IT'S BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT BEFORE, DIDN'T YOU MANABE-SAN!

かぁ～っ

BLUSH

BUT, SENPAI, IT WAS YOUR NAME ON THE CARD.

...?

YEAH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT

OH...? WELL, I COULDA SWORN... BUT ANYWAY, I GUESS THE POP MUSIC CLUB IS JUST FAMOUS IN ALL KINDS OF WAYS!

SO THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT WAS THE CULPRIT?

WOW.

ビク

JUMP

UHH...LIKE, MAYBE IT'S YOU WHO'S STALKING ME OR SOMETHING, RIGHT—? HA-HA.

YEAH, RIGHT— YOU WISH!

I SHOULD TELL A JOKE TO EASE THE TEN-SION!

EH-HEH-HEH. YEAH.

WELL, GIVEN HER POSITION AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, IT'S NOT EXACTLY EASY FOR HER TO JUST GO AROUND TELL-ING PEOPLE SHE'S ALSO PRESIDENT OF YOUR FAN CLUB.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M GONNA BE GRADUAT-ING SOON, AND I GET SO UPSET AT THE THOUGHT OF NEVER BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU AGAIN THAT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF...!

EHH —!?

I'M SORRY!! IT WAS ME!!

HM?

WHOA, RIT-CHAN... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

OH AKIYAMA-SAN

IT'S STILL A LITTLE CREEPY, BUT...

IT'S ALL RIGHT— YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOUR HEAD IN SHAME. I WAS ACTU-ALLY KINDA FLATTERED WHEN YOU SAID THOSE THINGS TO ME JUST NOW.

STOP RIGHT THERE.

I WAS JUST THINKIN' THIS'D BE THE PERFECT TIME TO GO ASK FOR A BIGGER BUDGET FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB... HEH-HEH.

EH!?

UM, I'M PRESIDENT OF THE FAN CLUB TOO.

WAIT... HER MEMBER NUMBER IS 0001 .!?

ALL I KNOW IS THE POP MUSIC CLUB TOLD US TO COME HERE TO THE GYM. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

.....

MEGUMI SOKABE-SAN! CON-GRATU-LATIONS ON YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUA-TION!

OH, COME ON...I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT.

MAYBE THEY WANNA SETTLE THE SCORE

...BUT EVEN SO, I'VE JUST BEEN WONDERING IF THERE'S MAYBE ANYTH NG I CAN DO FOR HER.

WHAT THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT DID WAS PRETTY CREEPY AND AWL...

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!!

SO, BY WAY OF CELEBRA-TION, WE'D LIKE TO PERFORM A SONG FOR YOU.

WHAAH! YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!!

THERE TO-TALLY IS!!

ONE! TWO! THREE! FOUR!!

"FLUFF-FLUFF TIME"!

MIO-CHAN, THERE'S SOME-THING *ONLY YOU* CAN DO FOR HER!

UM, THAT WOULD BE ME.

BY THE WAY, WHO'S GONNA BE THE NEXT STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT?

SENPAI! SNAP OUT OF IT!

THEY'RE DONE PLAYING ALREADY!

ふわ

MOVED

...WELL ACTUALLY, THEY MADE THE ANNOUNCE-MENT TO THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY AT THE LAST SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.

WHAT!? ARE YOU SE-RIOUS!? THAT'S SO AWE-SOME!!

GRAB

ガーン

SHOCK

WH-HEY! WHERE DO YOU GIRLS GET OFF, THINKING YOU CAN JUST USE THE GYM WITHOUT PERMIS-SION!!?

I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE WITH ALL THAT NON-SENSE!

THIS IS JUST A HUMBLE TOKEN OF OUR APPRECI-ATION...

AHEM.

...IS WHAT I HAVE TO SAY AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT.

NO, THANK YOU!!

I'D ALSO BE HONORED IF YOU'D TAKE OVER THE FAN CLUB PRESI-DENCY FOR ME

WELL, SO MUCH FOR MY IMAGE OF HER AS THE WISE OLDER STUDENT.

JUST MAKE IT OUT LIKE, "TO MEGUMI FROM YOUR WITTLE MIO-CHAN" KAY?

NOW, CAN I PLEASE HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH!??

EVEN TEACHERS ARE COMING TO ASK FAVORS??

I'D LIKE A RAISE, PLEASE.

WHO ARE YOU??
I'D LIKE A PART IN THE SERIES, PLEASE.

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DEEP IN THOUGHT ABOUT OVER THERE?
BADUM

MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL COOK TOGETHER. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR VALEN-TINE'S DAY?

YOU ARE SO TOTALLY GIVING IT AWAY.
あわわわわ
PANIC
I S-S-SWEAR TO GOD I WAS NOT THINK-ING ABOUT VALEN-TINE'S DAY!! HONEST !!

I WONDER HOW MIO-SENPAI'D REACT IF I GAVE HER VALEN-TINE'S CHOCO-LATE THIS YEAR.
VALEN-TINE'S DAY, HUH...?

ALL RIGHT! LET'S MAKE A WHOLE BUNCH N SECRET AND THEN SURPRISE EVERYONE WITH IT!!

YAY!

SO THEN... WHO ARE YOU THINKING OF GIVING CHOCOLATE TO THIS YEAR?

HMMM...

WELL... EVERYBODY IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB HAS BEEN SO NICE AND HELPED ME OUT SO MUCH THIS YEAR THAT I WAS THINKING OF GIVING IT TO THEM ALL AS THANKS.

...AT LEAST THAT'S THE STORY I'M GOING WITH.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CANNOT TELL ANY OF THEM ABOUT THIS, OKAY!?

GRAB

OKAY. I WON'T, BUT...

じーーーっ STAAARE

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

...OF COURSE YOU'RE GETTING SOME TOO, Li.

TEE HEE.

にこ～♥ GRIN

...IT LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE CLASS ALREADY KNOWS.

SMIRK

SMIRK

GRIN

GRIN

AAGH!!

SIGH... AND IN THE END I NEVER EVEN GOT IT OUT OF HER...

AFTER SCHOOL

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MIO-SENPAI DOESN'T REALLY EAT THE SWEETS IN THE CLUB-ROOM.

STARE

HI, AZUSA-CHAN.

HUH? HI?

UMM... MIO-SENPAI... DO YOU LIKE SWEET—

JA-JANG

HOW COME YOU'RE JUST STAR-ING AT ME LIKE THAT?

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE YOU MAKING FOR...?

どっさり

HEAVY[BAGS

...WHAT'S ALL THAT? INGREDI-ENTS FOR VALEN-TINE'S DAY?

YEAH... WHY?

...I DUNNO WHAT'S WORKIN' TODAY, BUT PRACTICE IS GOING SO GREAT.

PHEW ...

ALL THAT FOR ONE PER-SON!?

HUH...? I'M JUST MAK NG FOR MY BIG SISTER.

EHHH!?

SHE'S NEVER LIKE THIS...

PEOPLE ARE TRYIN' TO HAVE A CONVERSATION OVER HERE!

WOULDYA KEEP IT DOWN WITH ALL THAT RACKET!!?

WOO-HOO!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S START COOK-ING!
UH... YEAH...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT INGREDI-ENTS TO BUY...
AZUSA-CHAN, SHOULDN'T YOU GO BUY SOME INGRE-DIENTS TOO?
BWAAAH!?
にぃぃ!?
SO WHAT-CHA GUYS COOK-ING?
SO, UI, WHAT'D YOU END UP BUY-ING?
UM... UMM...
TODAY WE'RE DOING A CAKE.
OH, YUI-SENPAI IS HOME TOO.
...AND THIS TIME I'M GONNA TRY PUTTING SOME LIQUOR IN, SO I ALSO PICKED UP SOME RUM.
"CAKE" FLOUR?
WELL, EGGS, OF COURSE. AND GRANULATED SUGAR, RIGHT? AND CAKE FLOUR...
"GRANU"- WHAT?
IF YOU MAKE HER SWEETS ALL THE TIME, THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF VALEN-TINE'S DAY...?
WHISPER
WHISPER
DON'T WORRY— I MAKE SWEETS ALL THE TIME. SHE'LL NEVER CATCH ON.
CAKE!
I HUMBLY BEG YOUR ASSIS-TANCE, MASTER !!
...YOU WANNA COME OVER TO MY PLACE AND MAKE IT TOGETH-ER?

WHOA! AWE-SOME!!
IT LOOKS SO PROFESSIONAL.
UM... I JUST MADE THIS CHOCOLATE CAKE AS MY WAY OF SAYING THANKS TO EVERYONE.
VALENTINE'S DAY
I WONDER HOW I SHOULD PRESENT THIS CAKE TO EVERY-ONE...
SNEAK
SNEAK
WOW, IT'S GOOD.
IT'S WAY GOOD!! AZU-MEOW, YOU'RE A CAKE GENIUS !!
OH, AZU-MEOW! HIYA.
G-G-GOOD MORNING.
WHAT? MUGI, YOU DIDN'T BRING ANY SWEETS TODAY...?
HUH? WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
SO HERE— I GIVE YOU THIS IN RE-TURN!
SORRY, GUYS. I DIDN'T BRING ANY MY-SELF. .
. .BUT IT LOOKS LIKE AZUSA-CHAN WERE BROUGHT SOME OF HER OWN. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
WHUH!?
A PIECE OF CANDY! IT'S MY RETURN PRESENT FOR WHITE DAY!
SO QUICK !!
SO CHEAP.
HEE HEE HEE
SMILE
SMILE
WHAT GAVE IT AWAY —!?

HEE HEE HEE...

THAT CAKE WAS REALLY GOOD, AZUSA. ♡

RUSTLE

HM?

I'M SO HAPPY YOU LIKED IT!

YEAH... THAT CAKE WAS REALLY GOOD, AZUSA.

THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF SWEETNESS!

OH, IT'S THAT CANDY YUI-SENPAI GAVE ME.

.....

I WAS KINDA WORRIED MAYBE YOU DIDN'T ACTUALLY LIKE SWEETS VERY MUCH.

MIO-SENPAI, I'VE NOTICED HOW YOU DON'T REALLY EAT THE SWEETS IN THE CLUB-ROOM.

.....

AZU-MEOW!

YOU'RE A CAKE GENIUS!

HWUH?

...WELL, I WANNA PIG OUT LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE, BUT...

MUMBLE

IT'S SWEET.

.....

NOM NOM

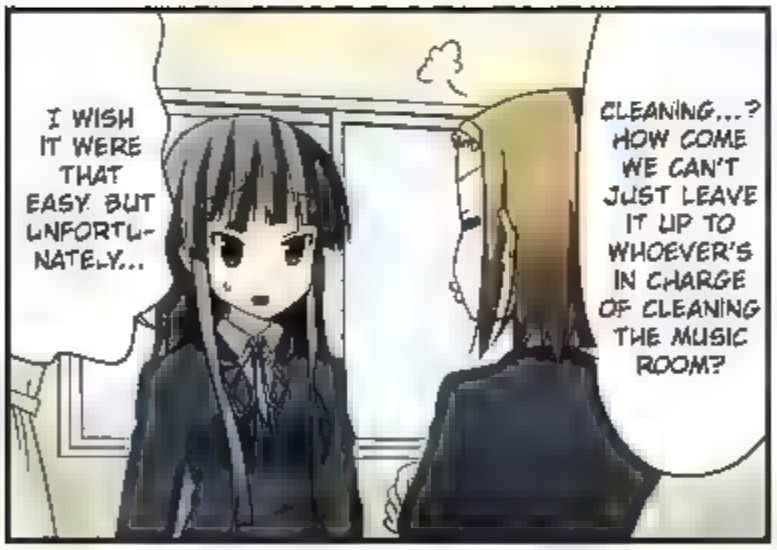
NYUM

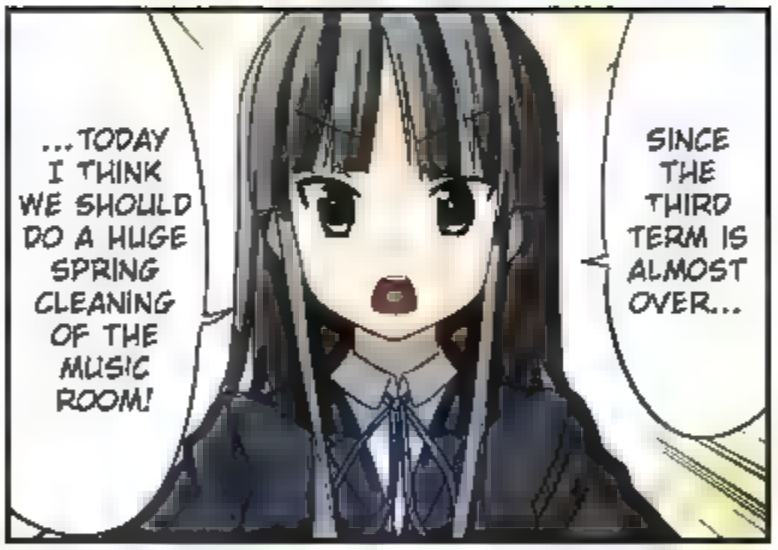
EH? WHAT ...?

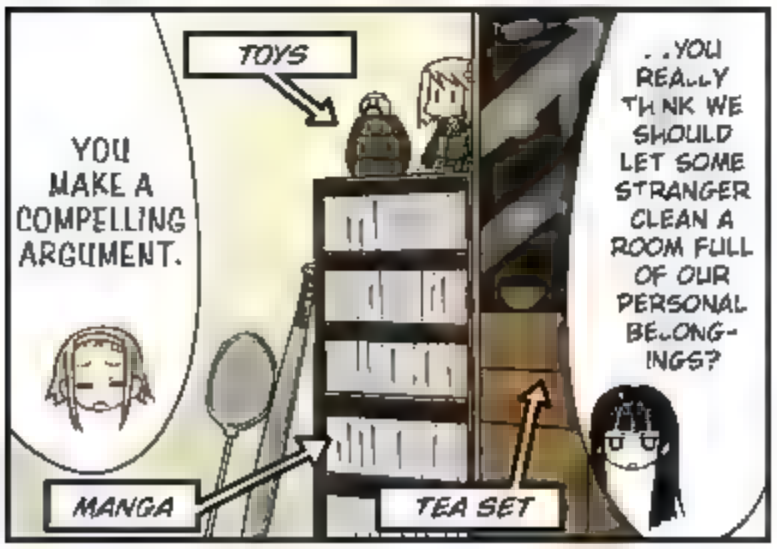
NICE GOING. YOU JUST STEPPED ON A LAND MINE.

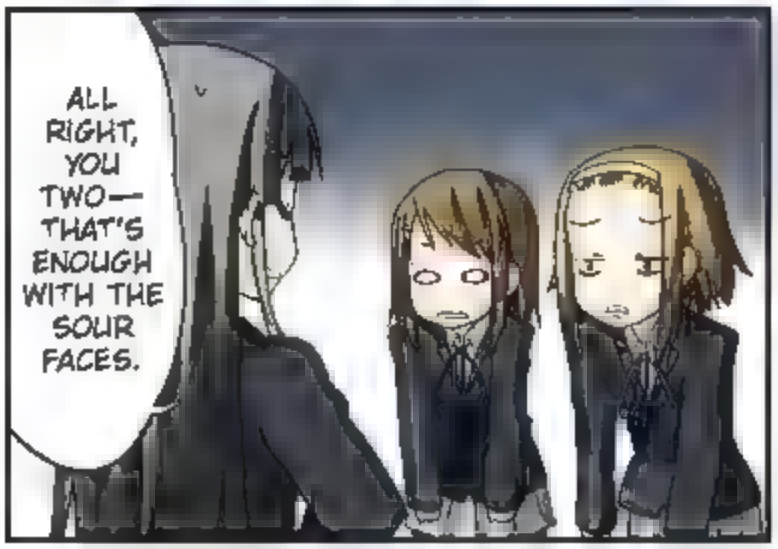
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT THAT I PUT ON EXTRA WEIGHT IN THE WINTER —!

WAAAAGH!!


I WISH IT WERE THAT EASY. BUT UNFORTU-NATELY...
CLEANING...? HOW COME WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT UP TO WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE OF CLEANING THE MUSIC ROOM?


...TODAY I THINK WE SHOULD DO A HUGE SPRING CLEANING OF THE MUSIC ROOM!
SINCE THE THIRD TERM IS ALMOST OVER...


TOYS
YOU MAKE A COMPELLING ARGUMENT.
MANGA
TEA SET
..YOU REALLY THINK WE SHOULD LET SOME STRANGER CLEAN A ROOM FULL OF OUR PERSONAL BELONG-INGS?


ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO— THAT'S ENOUGH WITH THE SOUR FACES.

SPEAKING OF STUFFED ANIMALS, WHY ON EARTH DO WE HAVE SUCH A HUGE PILE OF THEM??

THE FIRST THING WE SHOULD DO IS TAKE EVERYTHING WE DON'T NEED AND MOVE IT OUTSIDE.

GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE. LET'S DO THIS!!

LIKE I CARE.

OH... YEAH, I NABBED THOSE FOR ¥200!

HM?

...UM, MIO-SENPAI? WHAT'S THIS?

HUH? THAT ONE'S NOT MINE.

HEY, TAKE THIS ONE TOO.

WHOA— THAT'S MINE!!

TA-DAA

...WHAT'S SOMETHING LIKE THIS DOING IN THE MUSIC ROOM??

SO IT WAS MIO'S !!?

コソ QUIETLY

コソ QUIETLY

MY POINT IS, WHERE THE HECK DID YOU GET THAT THING IN THE FIRST PLACE?

ギュー HUG

ISN'T HE CUTE? I DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO PUT HIM AT MY PLACE, SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE. BUT I HAD TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM..

LOOK, LOOK! I FOUND SOME KIND OF CASE BACK HERE!

WHEW. I GUESS WE GOT MOST OF IT PICKED UP.

POOMF

POOMF

WE COULD ALMOST OPEN UP OUR OWN CAFÉ RIGHT HERE INSIDE THE MUSIC ROOM...

I EVEN BROUGHT IN A COFFEE SET AT ONE POINT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT NEVER GOT USED.

WONDER WHAT'S IN IT. THINK THERE'S SOMETHING VALUABLE INSIDE...?

YEAH, THOSE... I GUESS WE SHOULD STORE THOSE AWAY SOME-WHERE TOO.

MUGI, WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO WITH ALL THESE DISHES?

IT LOOKS SUPER-OLD, DOESN'T IT?

WHOA, IT'S A GUITAR.

JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, HOW MUCH DO THESE DISHES RUN?

YOU GUYS, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE POP MUSIC CLUB. LET'S TRY AND SHOW A LITTLE MORE INTEREST, SHALL WE?

HOW LAME

MAN, AND I WAS HOPIN' IT'D BE SOME-THING REALLY COOL.

WATCH THE DAMN DISH-ES-!!

DROP

FIFTY-THOU—

GEEZ, I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE ¥50,000 OR SO FOR THE SET? OR MAYBE IT WAS ¥100,000.

ANYWAY, HERE YOU GO, SAWA-CHAN.

SEN-SEI.

OH MY...I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT FOR AGES!

WHUGH!

IT SMELLS LIKE MOLD!!

SENSEI, YOU USED TO BE IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB!?

THIS IS THE GUITAR I USED TO PLAY BACK WHEN I WAS A STU-DENT HERE.

HUH? THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO WITH THE GUITAR?

YEAH, I GUESS I REALLY DON'T WANT IT. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY GUITAR ANYMORE ANYWAY.

THAT'S AWESOME! MAYBE YOU CAN GIVE ME GUITAR LESSONS SOME-TIME!

WELL, YEAH... I GUESS I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, AZUSA-CHAN.

PASSING THE BUCK OFF ONTO US AGAIN ..

SO GENEROUS!

OH, JUST SELL IT OFF SOME-WHERE AND USE THE PROCEEDS FOR CLUB FUNDS.

WHY THE HELL NOT!?

HUH... THEN I GUESS MAYBE NOT

THIS IS A PIC-TURE OF SAWA-CHAN WHEN SHE WAS A STU-DENT

CALM DOWN.

WH... WH... WHY... FI... FIVE HUN...

WE'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE THIS OFF YOUR HANDS FOR ¥500,000.

NO, NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

WHY DID YOU GO SO HIGH ON THE PRICE? I MEAN, IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT GOING TOO LOW BECAUSE MUGI'S HERE OR SOMETHING...

AND AS YOU CAN
HERE. THIS GUITAR HA
NON-ORIGINAL TAILPIE
WHICH DOES TEND TO DR
HE PRICE DOWN SOMEWH
OWEVER, MANY PLAYERS
REFER THIS STOPBAR TAI
ESE BECAUSE THEY FEEL
MPROVES THE PLAYABILITY
SO THE PRESENCE OF THE
USTOM WORK IN THIS CAS
DESN'T DETRACT TOO MUC
FROM THE VALUE OF THE
L TAR. FURTHERMORE, YOU
ENTIONED THAT THIS GUITA
AS BEEN IN STORAGE FO
UITE SOME TIME NOW, AN
CAN SEE THAT THERE'S
DAMAGE TO THE BODY O
EARING OF THE FRET'S
GUITAR OF THIS AGE
N EXTREMELY GOOD
TION. SO THAT'S AN
EASON WHY WE'RE
GO SO HIGH IN

HIS MODEL OF GUITAR
AS FIRST PRODUCED
EARLY 1960S, ALTHOU
THE BEGINNING THER
WEREN'T ANY SPECIFIC
GUIDELINES CONCERNIN
MATERIALS OR STYLING
SO IN POINT OF FACT TH
UITAR UNDERWENT A LO
SERIES OF MINOR CHANG
NO UPGRADES BEFORE
ESIGN GRADUALLY SETT
N THE LOOK THAT YOU
DAY. ONE OF THE REAS
HY THE GUITAR THAT W
ADIES BROUGHT IN FOR
TCHED SUCH A HIGH PR
BECAUSE IT FEATURES
AZILIAN ROSEWOOD FR
ARD. THAT PARTICULA
OD IS QUITE RARE AN
ENSIVE NOWADAYS.
A MAJOR SELLING
POINT FOR THIS
SPECIMEN...

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN...!??

?

OH. UM... WELL, BASICALLY, IT'S JUST A VALUABLE GUITAR.

?

YOU'RE JUST GONNA TAKE THAT KINDA CASH WITHOUT EVEN BLINKING!!?

THANKS

HERE'S THE FULL AMOUNT.

I WONDER WHAT I COULD BUY WITH THAT...

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN EACH, HUH?

...SO I GUESS WE SOLD IT.

I WONDER IF IT'S REALLY OKAY...

THANK YOU FOR COMING IN~!

MULTI-BASS AMP SIMULATOR

NEW AMP

WE JUST DID WHAT SAWA-CHAN TOLD US TO DO. I'M SURE IT'S FINE.

Y-YOU GUYS... IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO JUST SELL IT LIKE THAT?

TWIN PEDALS

NEW SNARE

EVEN SPLIT FIVE WAYS, IT'S STILL ¥100,000 EACH.

YEAH, YOU LIKE IT LIKE THIS, BABY?

OOO~ MORE~ ♡

THE FALL OF AZUSA

HEH HEH HEH.

...THERE WAS AN EFFECTS PEDAL IN THERE THAT I REALLY WANTED.

WOW... I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS THAT OLD!

APPARENTLY THE GUITAR WAS, LIKE, MORE THAN FORTY YEARS OLD OR SOMETHING.

JUMP

HEY... YOU GUYS?

THE NEXT DAY

YOU EVER SEEN A FIFTY-YEAR-OLD WITH A TIGHT YOUNG BODY LIKE THIS!!?

...SO I WAS WONDERING... SAWA-CHAN, ARE YOU OVER FIFTY?

AHH...AH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT. WE MUST NOT'VE HEARD YOU.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? I'VE BEEN CALLING OUT TO YOU!

AND THEN IT ENDED UP BEING MINE.

AHEM

THAT GUITAR WAS ORIGINALLY MY DAD'S. HE GOT IT FROM A FRIEND OF HIS.

SO HOW MUCH DID YOU GET FOR THE GUITAR YESTERDAY?

.....?

THANK GOD SAWA-CHAN DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "VINTAGE"...!

BLISSFULLY UNAWARE

のほほん

I REMEMBER THINKING AT THE TIME, I WISHED HE WOULDA JUST BOUGHT ME A NEW ONE INSTEAD OF SHOVING SOME OLD PIECE OF JUNK LIKE THAT ONTO ME.

OH WELL, I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT ALL YOU COULD HOPE FOR.

EH_?

UHHH... 10,000 YEN...?

YES 'M...

GIVE. ME. THAT. RE-CEIPT.

ANYWAY, JUST GIMME THE RECEIPT AND WE'LL CALL IT GOOD.

THAT'S UNBE-LIEV-ABLE !!

WOW!

NO WAY!! YOU GUYS GOT ¥500,000 FOR IT!?

THE RECEIPT, SILLY! I'M STILL GONNA LOG IT AS CLUB FUNDS, EVEN IF IT WAS A SMALL AMOUNT.

...EXCUSE ME?

EHHHH!?

ALL RIGHT THEN, I'LL GO AHEAD AND PUT ¥10,000 INTO THE CLUB FUND, LIKE RITSU INDICATED.

?

TREMBLE

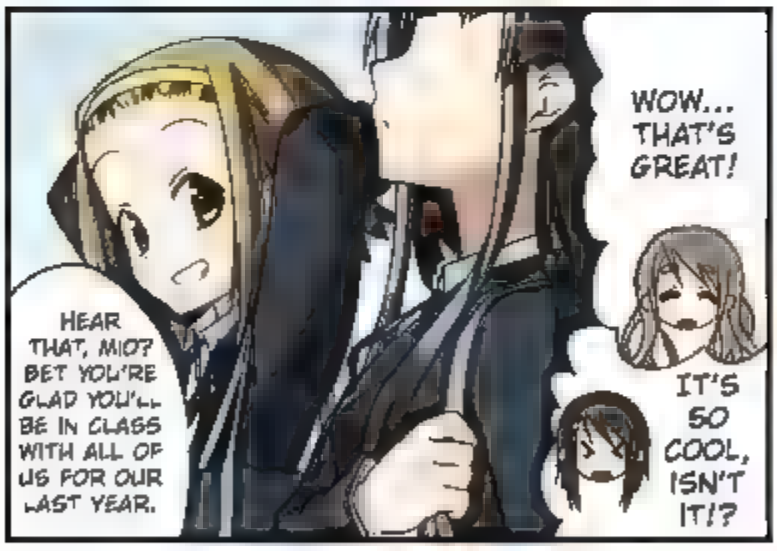
TREMBLE

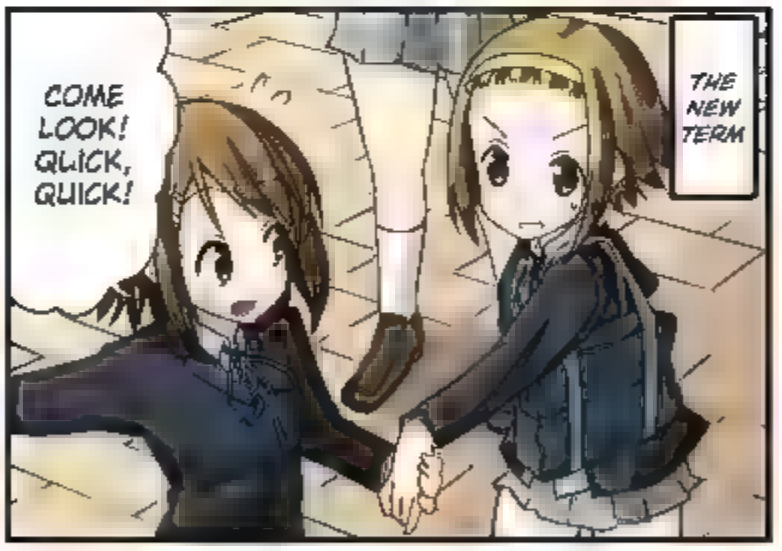
THAT IS SUCH A LIE —!!

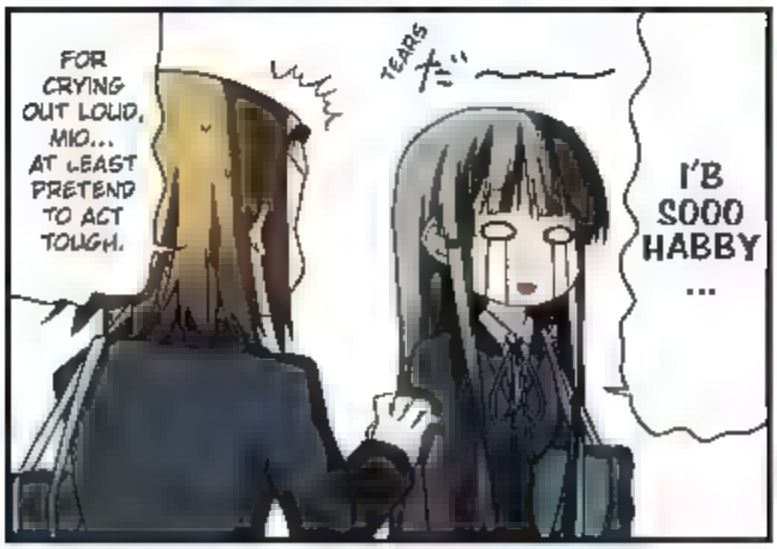
IF YOU'D BEEN HONEST WITH ME FROM THE START, I WOULD'VE GIVEN YOU GIRLS THE WHOLE THING. TOO BAD FOR YOU. ♪

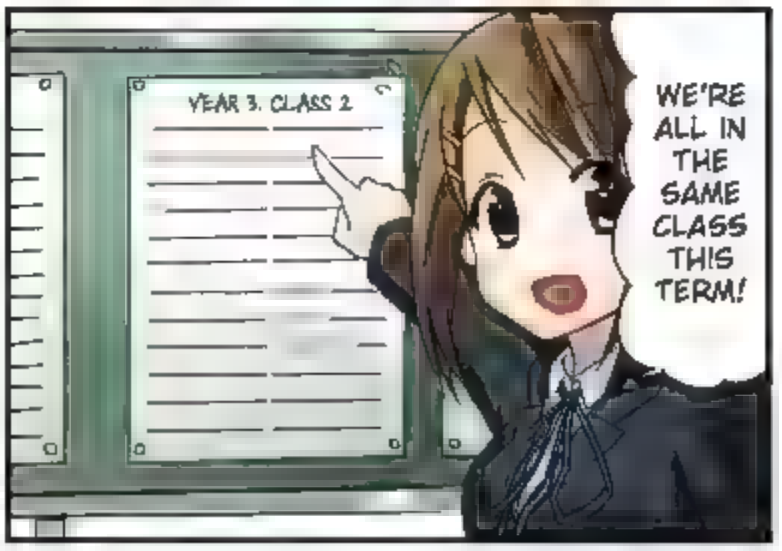
WHAAA!?

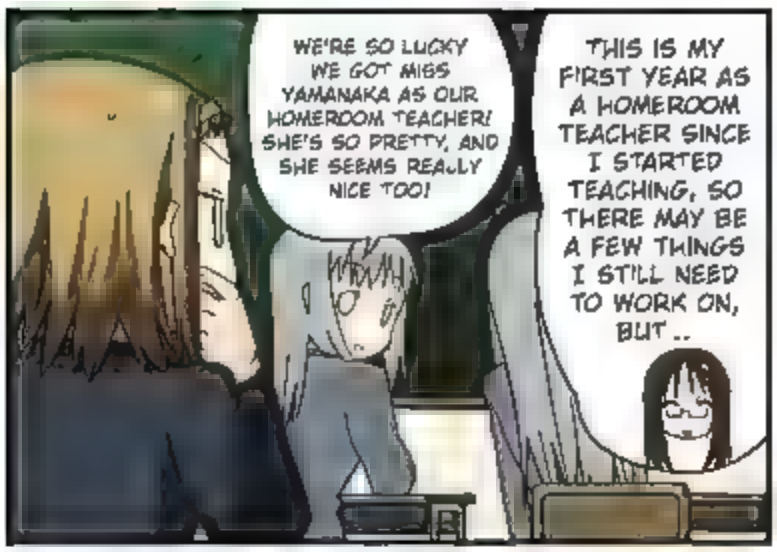
CHOMP

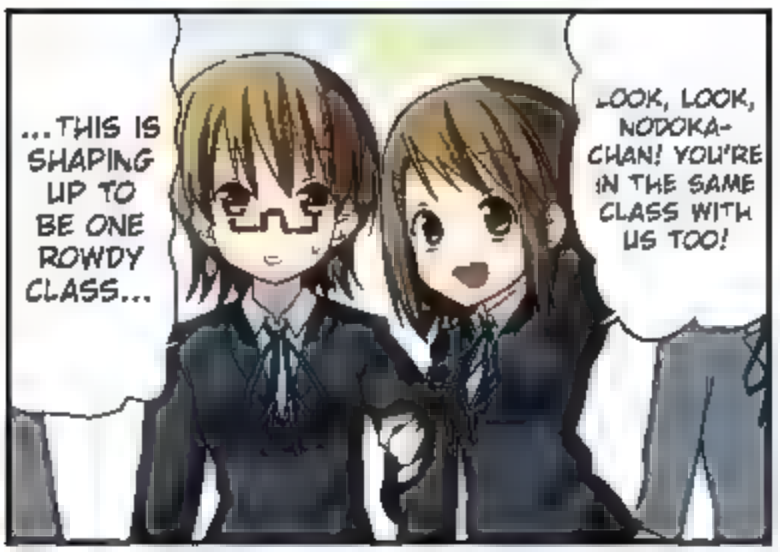

HEAR THAT, MIO? BET YOU'RE GLAD YOU'LL BE IN CLASS WITH ALL OF US FOR OUR LAST YEAR.
WOW... THAT'S GREAT!
IT'S SO COOL, ISN'T IT!?

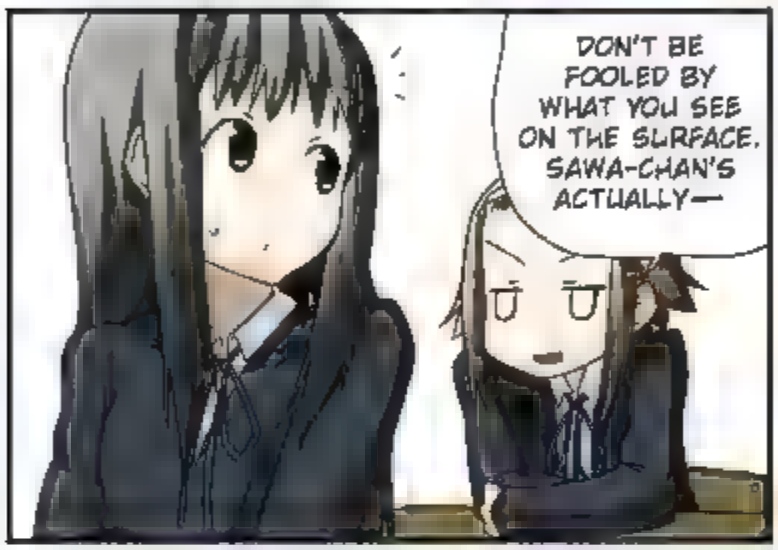

COME LOOK! QUICK, QUICK!
THE NEW TERM

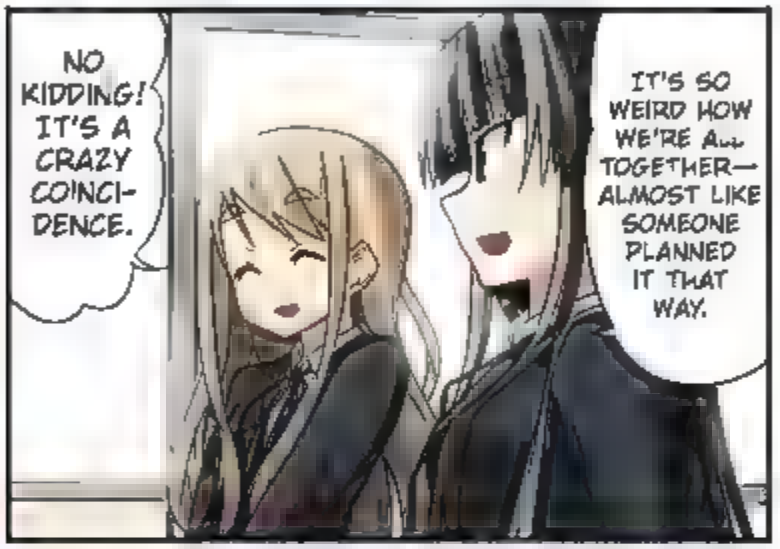

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, MIO... AT LEAST PRETEND TO ACT TOUGH.
TEARS
I'B SOOO HABBY ...

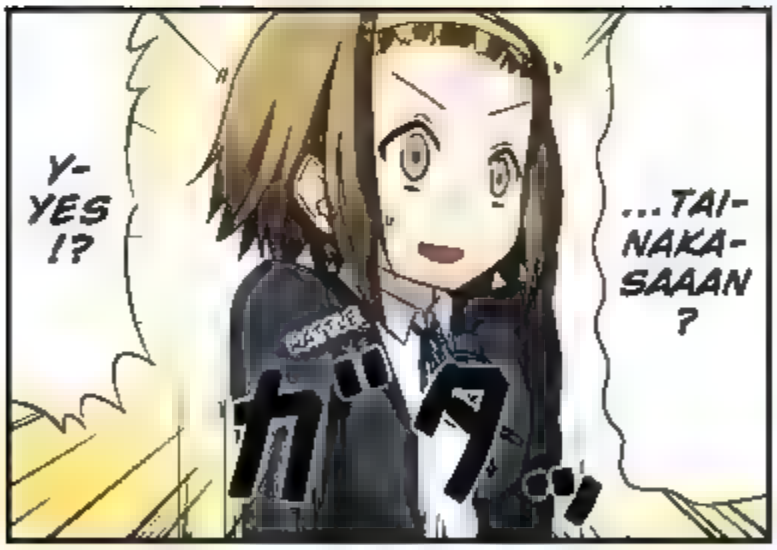

YEAR 3. CLASS 2
WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME CLASS THIS TERM!

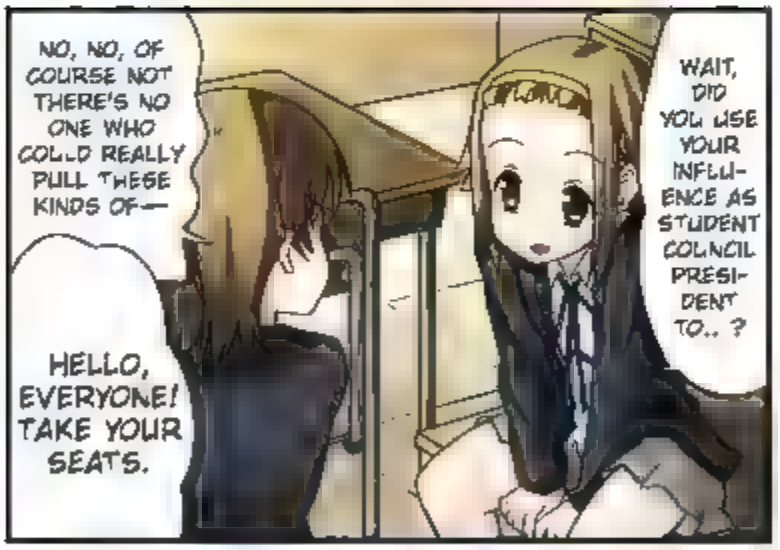

WE'RE SO LUCKY WE GOT MISS YAMANAKA AS OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER! SHE'S SO PRETTY, AND SHE SEEMS REALLY NICE TOO!
THIS IS MY FIRST YEAR AS A HOMEROOM TEACHER SINCE I STARTED TEACHING, SO THERE MAY BE A FEW THINGS I STILL NEED TO WORK ON, BUT ..

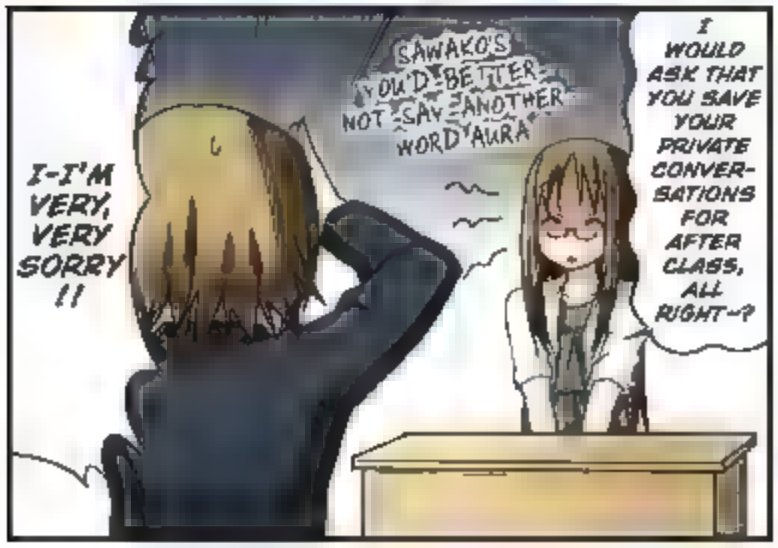

...THIS IS SHAPING UP TO BE ONE ROWDY CLASS...
LOOK, LOOK, NODOKA-CHAN! YOU'RE IN THE SAME CLASS WITH US TOO!

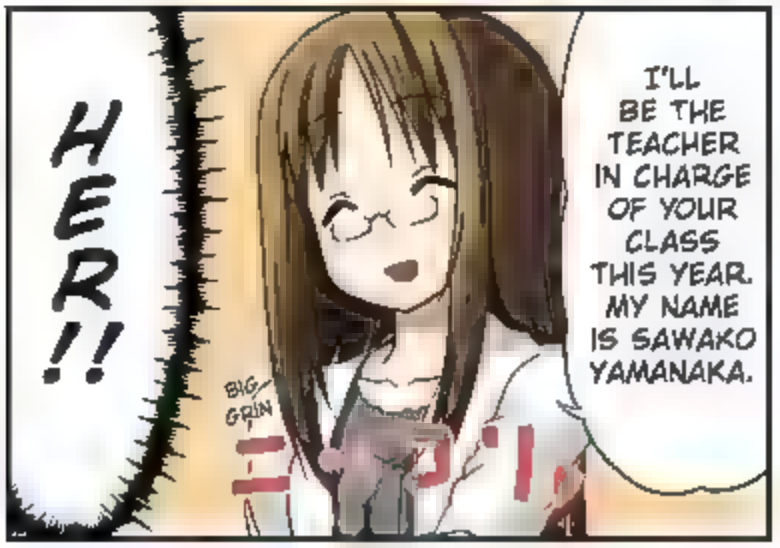

DON'T BE FOOLED BY WHAT YOU SEE ON THE SURFACE. SAWA-CHAN'S ACTUALLY—

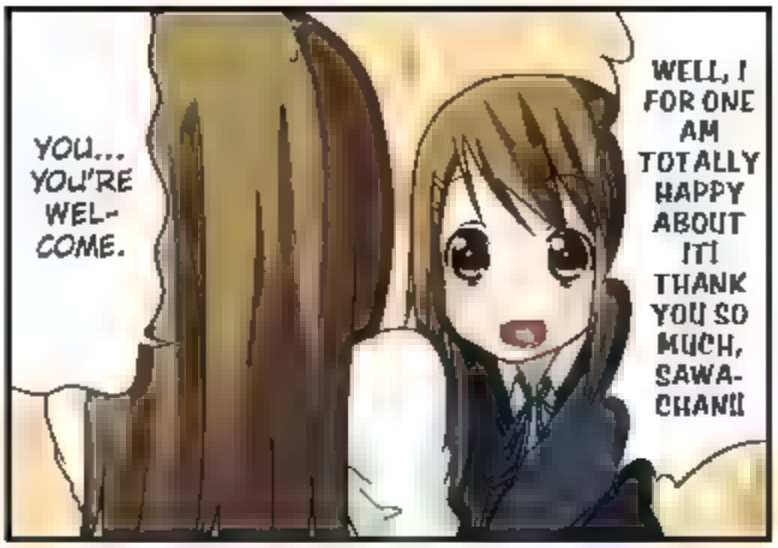

NO KIDDING! IT'S A CRAZY COINCI-DENCE.
IT'S SO WEIRD HOW WE'RE ALL TOGETHER— ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE PLANNED IT THAT WAY.

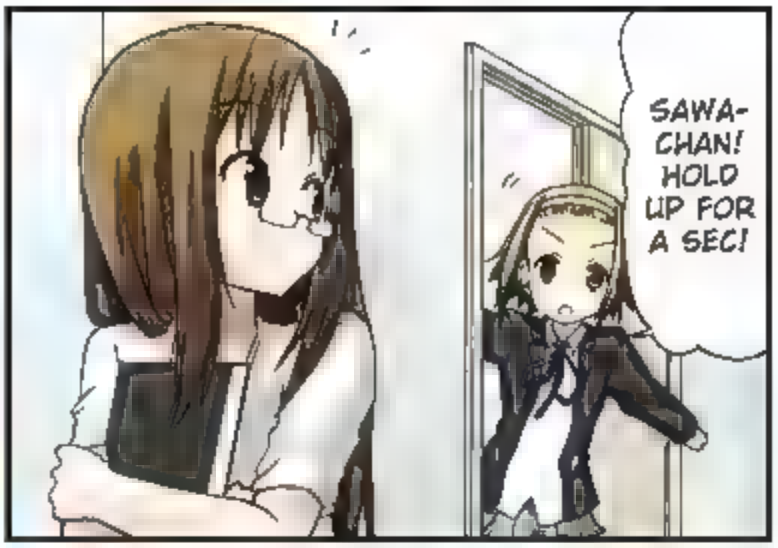

Y-YES!?
ガタ...
...TAI-NAKA-SAAAN?

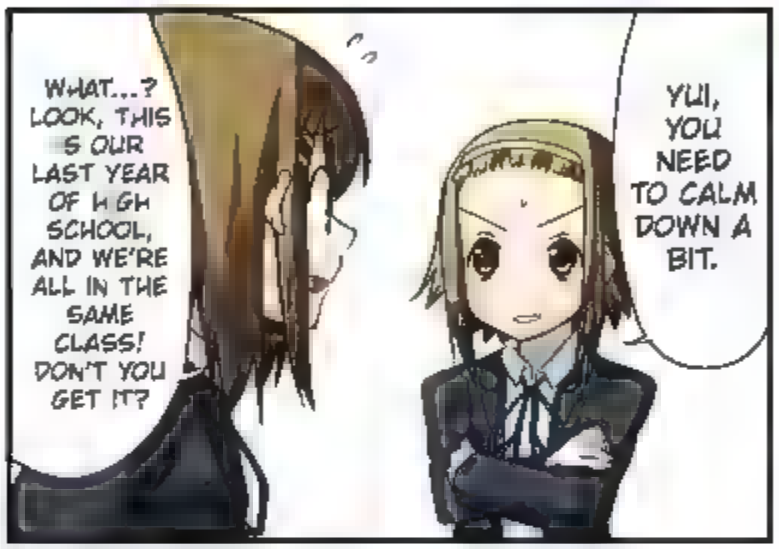

NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT THERE'S NO ONE WHO COULD REALLY PULL THESE KINDS OF—
HELLO, EVERYONE! TAKE YOUR SEATS.
WAIT, DID YOU USE YOUR INFLU-ENCE AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT TO..?

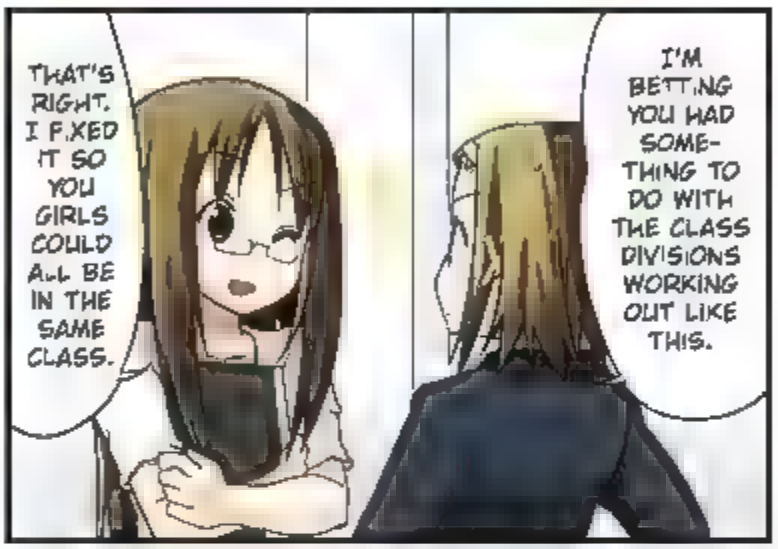

I-I'M VERY, VERY SORRY!!
SAWAKO'S AURA
YOU'D BETTER NOT SAY ANOTHER WORD
I WOULD ASK THAT YOU SAVE YOUR PRIVATE CONVER-SATIONS FOR AFTER CLASS, ALL RIGHT~?

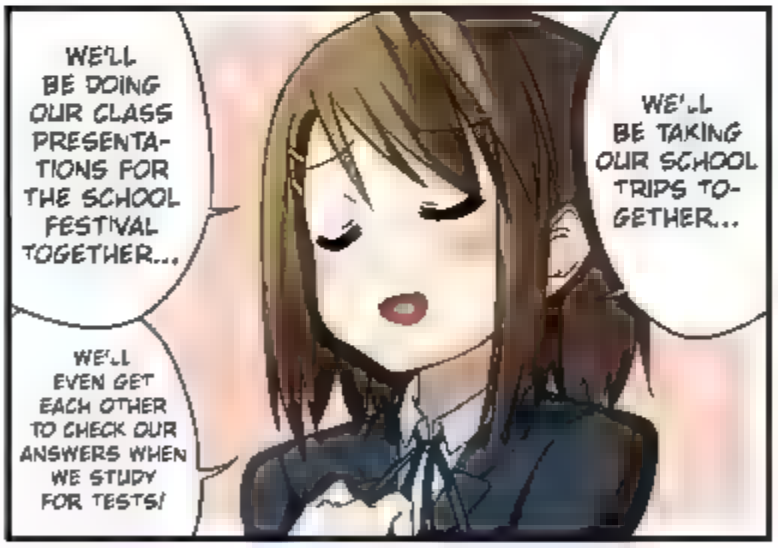

HER!!
BIG GRIN
I'LL BE THE TEACHER IN CHARGE OF YOUR CLASS THIS YEAR. MY NAME IS SAWAKO YAMANAKA.

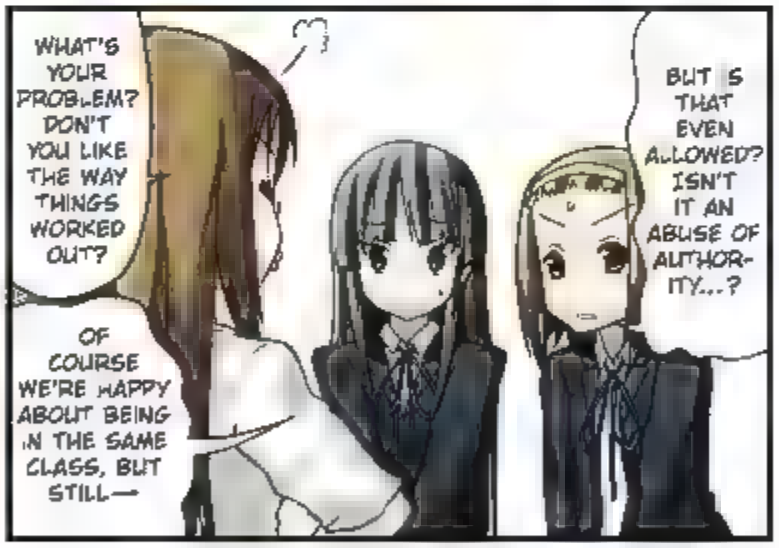

YOU... YOU'RE WEL-COME.
WELL, I FOR ONE AM TOTALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT! THANK YOU SO MUCH, SAWA-CHAN!!

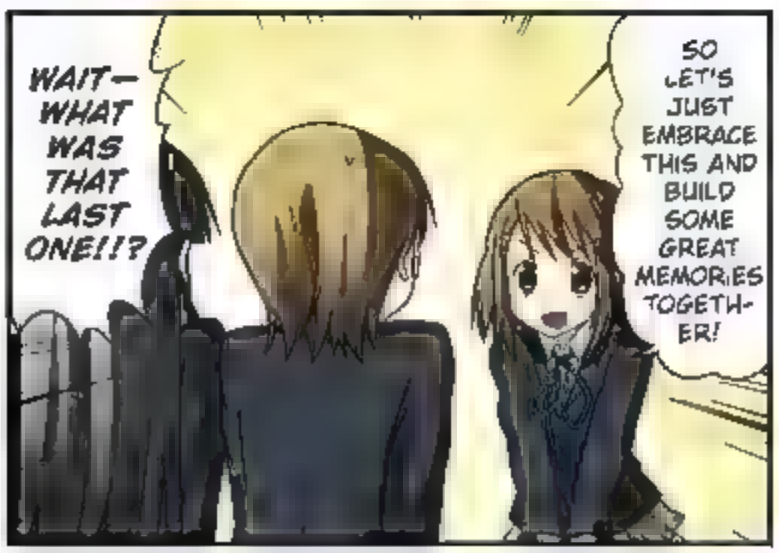

SAWA-CHAN! HOLD UP FOR A SEC!

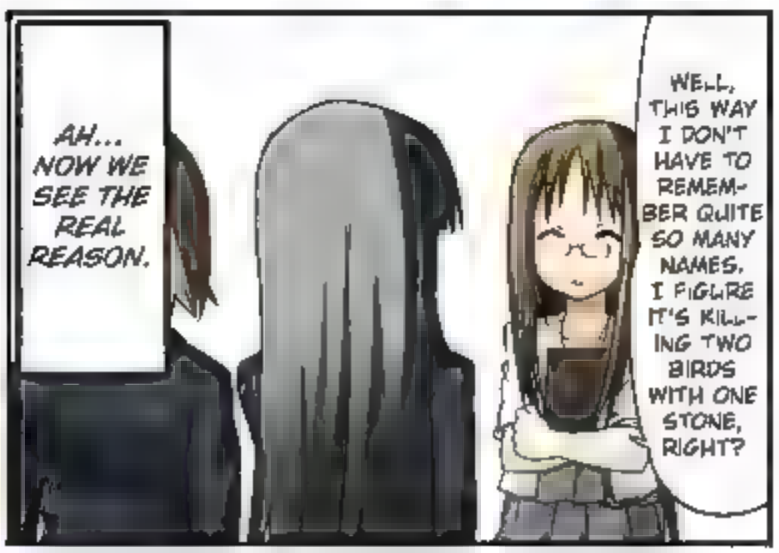

WHAT...? LOOK, THIS IS OUR LAST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, AND WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME CLASS! DON'T YOU GET IT?
YUI, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN A BIT.


THAT'S RIGHT. I FIXED IT SO YOU GIRLS COULD ALL BE IN THE SAME CLASS.
I'M BETTING YOU HAD SOME-THING TO DO WITH THE CLASS DIVISIONS WORKING OUT LIKE THIS.


WE'LL BE DOING OUR CLASS PRESENTA-TIONS FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL TOGETHER...
WE'LL BE TAKING OUR SCHOOL TRIPS TO-GETHER...
WE'LL EVEN GET EACH OTHER TO CHECK OUR ANSWERS WHEN WE STUDY FOR TESTS!


WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? DON'T YOU LIKE THE WAY THINGS WORKED OUT?
BUT IS THAT EVEN ALLOWED? ISN'T IT AN ABUSE OF AUTHOR-ITY...?
OF COURSE WE'RE HAPPY ABOUT BEING IN THE SAME CLASS, BUT STILL—


WAIT— WHAT WAS THAT LAST ONE!!?
SO LET'S JUST EMBRACE THIS AND BUILD SOME GREAT MEMORIES TOGETH-ER!


AH... NOW WE SEE THE REAL REASON.
WELL, THIS WAY I DON'T HAVE TO REMEM-BER QUITE SO MANY NAMES. I FIGURE IT'S KILL-ING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE, RIGHT?

THE CLUB-ROOM IS SO RELAX-ING, MEOW...

AHHH ...

OH, SENPAI.

HEY! AZU-MEOW !!

YEAH, ME TOO!!

I FEEL THE SAME WAY. I WANTED TO COME HERE SO MANY TIMES DURING SPRING BREAK.

WHAT'S WITH THE WEIRD CON-GRATU-LATIONS I?

CON-GRATU-LATIONS ON BEING A SECOND YEAR NOW!

HUG

THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY PERFOR—

IT MEANS WE EAT MUGI'S CAKE!!

ALL RIGHT, SO IT'S THE NEW TERM... AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!?

EEK! RI-RITSU-SENPAI! YOU'RE NOT A PERSON I WANNA HEAR THAT FROM!!

びくっ JUMP

じー— LEER

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A SECOND YEAR CERTAIN THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH, HAVE THEY?

JUST KIDDING, JUST KIDD NG. WE'LL DO THE PER-FORMANCE.

I PROMISE, I PROMISE

ぷくー PUFF

SHEESH... NEW YEAR, SAME OL' CRAP.

WHADDAYA MEAN? I WAS JUST TALKIN' ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT

WELL, I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE, AZU-MEOW

YOU WERE LOOKING AT MY CHEST!

AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN!!

HOLY COW... YOU GUYS, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR PERFORMANCE ALREADY

WE'VE GOTTA TRY OUR BEST!

THAT'S A REALLY GOOD POINT.

C'MON, YOU GUYS, LET'S GET SERIOUS ABOUT THIS IF WE CAN'T GET ANY NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THIS YEAR, THEN NEXT YEAR I'M GONNA BE THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE CLUB.

THIS YEAR'S COSTUMES ARE GONNA BE MAID OUTFITS WITH FRILLY MINISKIRTS.

WHAT'S THIS...?

HA HA HA..

PRESIDENT

ON THE OTHER HAND... IF WE DO NOTHING, THEN NEXT YEAR YOU'LL AUTOMATICALLY GET TO BE CLUB PRESIDENT.

...WHAT? HOW COME YOU GUYS ARE JUST STANDING THERE...?

OKAY! SO LET'S ALL GET OUT THERE AND DO OUR BEST!

WAAAGH!! I HATE THE PART OF MYSELF THAT'S STARTING TO THINK THIS CRAP IS NORMAL —!!

YOU LOOK SOOO CUTE! ♡

YEAH... WELL, I WAS JUST THINKING HOW YOU SEEM SO TOTALLY COMFORTABLE IN A MAID OUTFIT.

SHE TOTALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

SHE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

HEY—▯ I-I-I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THAT KINDA STUFF!

THE PERFOR-MANCE WENT GREAT THIS TIME!!

YEAHHH!!

Testing ... Testing ...

Hello ... Hello ...

Y-YOU REALLY THINK SO?

AZUSA, YOUR TWIN GUITAR PARTS WITH YUI WERE IN PERFECT SYNC. YOU SOUNDED REALLY COOL!

Congratula-tions to all the new students for getting into this school!

WELL, IF THE CROWD'S REACTION TODAY WAS ANY INDICATION, I THINK WE'RE GONNA START SEEING SOME NEW MEMBERS SOON.

BUT LOOK AT POOR YUI-CHAN—SHE'S SO POOPED FROM THE CONCERT, SHE'S SLUMPED OVER FACEDOWN ON THE TABLE.

...NOW'S MY CHANCE TO STEP UP AND DO MY BEST TO TRY TO GET SOME NEW MEM-BERS IN.

We in the Pop Music Club...

We're so happy that now we're all going to be able to study and learn under the same roof!

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO LET UP!!

WAAAAH!

NO TIME FOR SLEEP! WE NEED TO GO PASS OUT FLYERS!

AND HOPEFULLY REVIVE EVERYONE'S SPIRIT... THE POP MUSIC CLUB SEEMS SO LACKING IN MOTIVATION LATELY!!

So without further ado, we hope you enjoy our song "Brush Pen, Ballpoint Pen"!

THE NEXT DAY

NO ONE'S COMING...

JUST BE PATIENT. THERE'S STILL TIME.

HERE YOU GO

WE'RE THE POP MUSIC CLUB!!

AZUSA-CHAN, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.

I'M GONNA GO HAND OUT MORE FLYERS!

NOT TOO GOOD... WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING PEOPLE TO TAKE THE FLYERS.

HOW'S IT GOING SO FAR?

WELCOME TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB

HUH? WHAT'S THIS? WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO FORMAL ALL OF A SUDDEN.?

HEAR OUR PLIGHT, SAWA-CHAN!! ER, I MEAN... YAMANAKA-SENSEI!! WE NEED THE HELP THAT ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE!!

HUH...? BUT I THOUGHT IT'D BE CUTE.

PANT!

YUI-SENPAI —!! PUT THIS [illegible] AWAY!!

PANT

WELCOME TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB

GONK

WITH THE EDGE —!?

IF WE WERE TO PASS OUT BILLS FROM THAT MONEY WE GOT FOR YOUR GUITAR THE OTHER DAY ALONG WITH THE FLYERS, I'M SURE PEOPLE WOULD TAK—

ビクッ
STARTLE
ガラッ
SLIDE
THE NEXT DAY

SIGH...I GUESS THE POP MUSIC CLUB JUST ISN'T THAT POPULAR.

HUH?

MUGI-SENPAI, COULD I HAVE SOME MILK TEA, PLEASE?

I-I'M SORRY.. I WAS JUST LEAVING TO GO PASS OUT FLYERS...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT I MEAN, I HEARD TONS OF NEW STUDENTS SAYIN' THEY THOUGHT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY PERFORMANCE WAS REALLY COOL.

I'VE DECIDED THAT, AT LEAST FOR THIS YEAR, I WANNA DO THIS WITH JUST THE FIVE OF US.

AZU-MEOW...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT GETTING NEW MEMBERS ANY-MORE.

MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT THE FIVE OF YOU IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB LOOK SO TIGHT TOGETHER IT SEEMS HARD FOR ANYONE ELSE TO WORK THEIR WAY IN FROM THE OUTSIDE...

EH—?

GRIN
にっこり♡

BUT, YUI-SENPAI, FROM NOW ON THINGS ARE GONNA BE STRICTER AROUND HERE, OKAY? ♡

SHUSH. JUN-CHAN.

ガーン
SHOCK

...OR MAYBE PEOPLE CAN JUST SMELL THE FISHINESS SURROUND-ING THE POP MUSIC CLUB!

BUT... BUT...I'M NOT VERY SMART, AND I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT COLLEGES, SO...
WHAT!? YOU STILL HAVEN'T PICKED ANY!? THE DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN THOSE SURVEY FORMS FOR YOUR FUTURE PLANS IS ALREADY WAY PAST!

...
...
HRMM
...

THIS TIME THAT WORD REALLY HITS HOME —!!
YUI— IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU REALLY ARE GONNA TURN INTO A NEET, YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
SHOCK

AH, NODOKA-CHAN... I'M STILL REALLY UP IN THE AIR ABOUT WHICH SCHOOLS I WANNA APPLY TO...
...WHAT ARE YOU GROANING ABOUT OVER THERE, YUI?

SIGH

BUT I WANNA GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOU, NODOKA-CHAN...!!

STOP IT DON'T WRITE THAT, YUI.

OH, WHO CARES, ANYWAY? I GUESS I'LL JUST BE A NEET THEN.

LEMME GUESS YUI STILL HASN'T DECIDED ON HER FUTURE PLANS YET..

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS?

WHO, ME?

NODOKA-CHAN, WHICH SCHOOL DID YOU PICK AS YOUR TOP CHOICE?

I WAS THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD GO FOR RECOM-MENDA-TIONS

MIO-CHAN WHAT DID YOU PICK AS YOUR NUMBER-ONE SCHOOL?

I KNOW IT'S A BIG KIND OF HIGH FOR ME, BUT I FIGURED IF I COULD BUCKLE DOWN AND WORK REALLY HARD, I JUST MIGHT MANAGE TO GET IN.

I DECIDED TO SHOOT FOR K UNIVER-SITY.

YUI.. DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THE WORD "RECOM-MENDA-TIONS" MEANS?

SO THAT'S "R-E-C-O-M-M-E-N-D-A-T-I-O-N-S"

NOT A CLUE.

DON'T BE SO FLIP-PANT —!!

ALL RIGHT, THEN THAT'S WHAT I'LL PUT TOO.

I WROTE "UNDECIDED."

RIT-CHAN, WHAT'D YOU PUT DOWN?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MUGI-CHAN?

I MEAN, I STILL DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT MY FUTURE PLANS FOR SCHOOL MIGHT BE.

WHOA-HO!

THEN I'M GONNA GO WITH "UNDECIDED" TOO!!

I DECIDED ON N WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

HOLY COW! THAT'S A REALLY PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL!

BUT HOW COME A WOMEN'S COLLEGE?

YOU GUYS SURE IT'S REALLY OKAY TO WRITE "UNDECIDED"?

NO WAY—!! ARE WE GONNA LET OUR FUTURE BE DECIDED BY SOME STUPID PIECE OF PAPER? NO WAY—!

OH, IT'S JUST WHAT MY DAD RECOMMENDED..

THAT IS DEFINITELY NOT THE ONLY REASON.

Tainaka-san, Hirasawa-san... please come to the faculty room immediately!

IT WAS NOT OKAY.

I GUESS THAT'S WHERE I'LL GO T— WHUGH!!

GRAB

STOP MESSING AROUND.

THANK YOU.

HERE YOU GO, NODOKA-CHAN.

I SWEAR, YOU TWO.

THIS IS SO LAME

I'M SORRY, NODOKA-CHAN. JUST WALK HOME WITH-OUT ME, OKAY?

OH, IT'S BEEN SINCE KINDER-GARTEN.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU AND YUI KNOWN EACH OTHER?

JUST LIKE YOURS.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT THE SAME PROBLEM.

SHE'S A REAL HANDFUL, ISN'T SHE, NODOKA?

HMM... I DON'T THINK IT WAS ANYTHING IN PAR-TICULAR ...

HOW'D YOU TWO FIRST MEET? WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

RITSU'S THE SAME. SHE COULD REALLY DO A LOT OF THINGS IF SHE'D JUST PUT IN THE EFFORT.

SQUIRM

うず

SQUIRM

YUI'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS. ALWAYS THE SAME ISSUE BUT EVEN WITH THAT JUST NOW, I GUESS SHE'S GOTTEN A LITTLE BETTER THAN SHE USED TO BE.

WHAT, SHE JUST INSTINC-TIVELY SENSED NODOKA WAS A PERSON SHE COULD COUNT ON...!?

WHO'RE YOU?

EE-HEE!

TUG

IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS JUST SUDDEN-LY AT MY SIDE ONE DAY.

MUGI, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT !!?

I REALLY WANNA HEAR MORE!!

SH-SHALL WE CON-TINUE THIS DISCUS-SION IN THE CLUB-ROOM !?

OH YEAH, BY THE WAY—JUST NOW I SAID I THOUGHT SHE'S A LITTLE BETTER THAN SHE USED TO BE?

HUH?

WE WERE ALL SUPPOSED TO BRING BOIL-IN-THE-POUCH BAGS OF CURRY, BUT FOR SOME REASON YUI BROUGHT A PACKAGE OF RAW CURRY ROUX

BO CURRY

ONE TIME AT GRADE SCHOOL CAMP, WE WERE HAVING CURRY FOR LUNCH.

ANYWAY, SEE YOU GUYS TOMOR-ROW.

WELL, I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY THANKS TO THE POP MUSIC CLUB...SO THANK YOU.

YUI WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OCTOPUS THAT TIME, BUT OF COURSE SHE FORGOT TO BRING IT. SO WE ENDED UP MAKING OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS WITHOUT ANY OCTOPUS IN THEM.

OOPS.

THEN ANOTHER TIME WE WERE MAKING TAKOYAKI IN HOME-EC, AND EVERYBODY WAS SUP-POSED TO BRING IN ONE OF THE INGRE-DIENTS.

YEAH... SHE REALLY IS. SHE'S SORTA LIKE MOMMY.

... NODOKA-CHAN IS SO GROWN-UP.

GRIN GRIN

TAKOYAKI WITHOUT ANY OCTOPUS... HEE-HEE...

I COULD GO ON AND ON FOREVER ABOUT ALL THE STUPID CRAP LIKE THAT SHE'S PULLED.

AAH—! I MEAN LIKE MY MOM!!

"MOM-MY" ...??

WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN...

EVEN WITHOUT THE OCTO-PUS

THEY STILL TASTE PRETTY GOOD, HUH? ♡

BUT ONE LOOK AT THAT SWEET AND INNOCENT FACE OF HERS, AND FOR SOME REASON YOU JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FORGIVE HER.

"MUSICIAN," HUH?

MISSION FAILED, CAPTAIN!!

ぐすん SNIFF

...YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE UP YOUR MIND?

.....

THE NEXT DAY

PFFT... HEH HEH HEH...

BUT WE WERE SERIOUS...

YOU GUYS NEED TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS

WHAT I MIGHT WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT SO MUCH THOUGHT INTO IT, YOU KNOW JUST THINK OFF THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD ABOUT WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE N THE FUTURE AND WRITE THAT DOWN. EASY. RIGHT?

...I GUESS SHE'S JUST DUMB-FOUNDED AT WHAT IDIOTS YOU TWO ARE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WROTE "MUSICIAN" AS THEIR FUTURE GOAL!!

WHOA, NODOKA-CHAN'S CRACK-ING UP!!

YO!!

! RIT-CHAN!

YUI'S FUTURE... STILL UNDECIDED

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

YEAH, I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S BUYING THAT ONE, YUI.

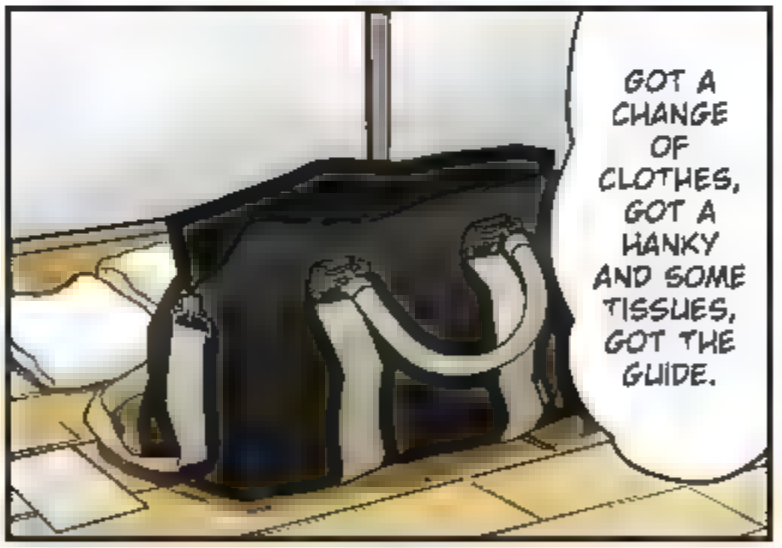
A-A-ACTUALLY, I PURPOSELY WROTE THAT JUST TO GET NODOKA-CHAN TO CRACK UP. THE WHOLE THING WAS A SLAPSTICK COMEDY GAG!!

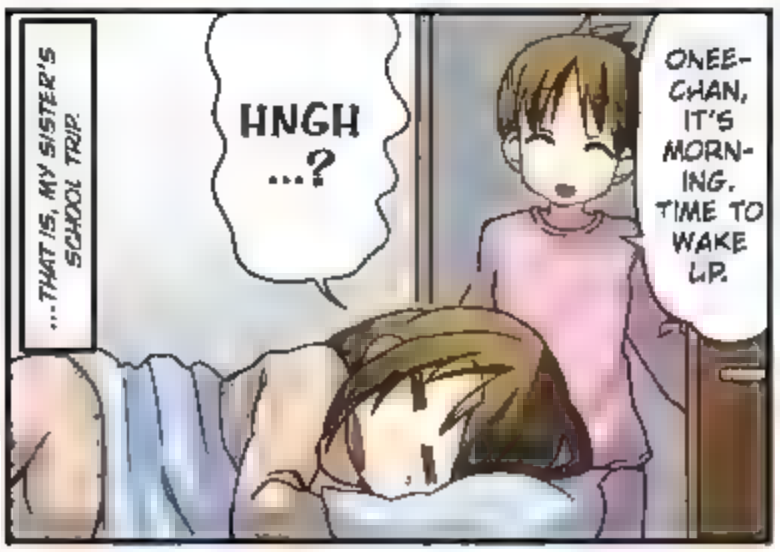
NAME
FIRST CHOICE MUSICIAN
SECOND CHOICE NOTHING!

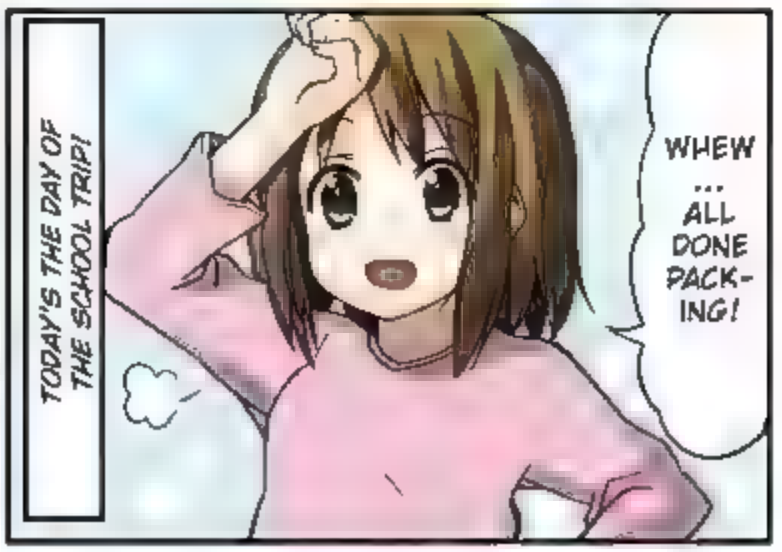
HOW COME —!?

REJECT.

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT ...
TUG

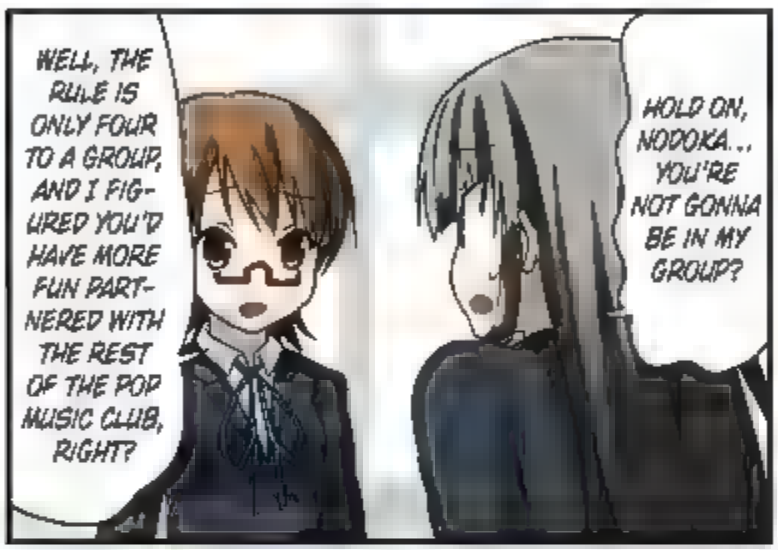

GOT A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, GOT A HANKY AND SOME TISSUES, GOT THE GUIDE.

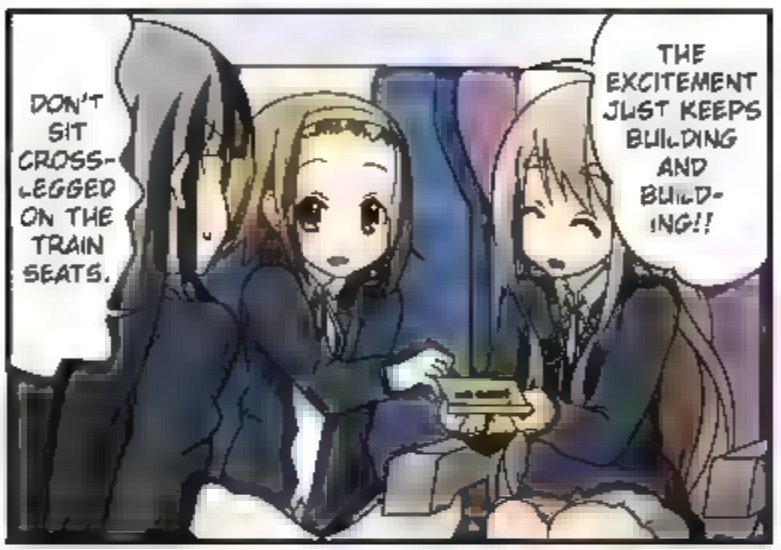

...THAT IS, MY SISTER'S SCHOOL TRIP.
HNGH ...?
ONEE-CHAN, IT'S MORN-ING. TIME TO WAKE UP.

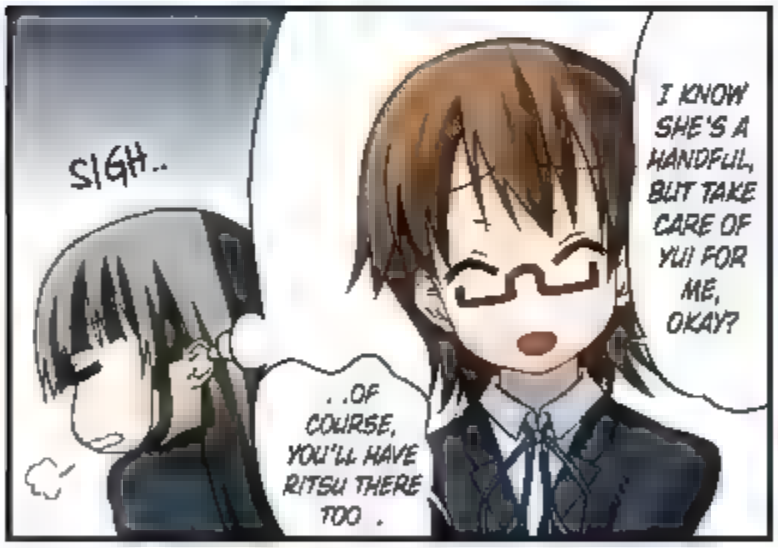

TODAY'S THE DAY OF THE SCHOOL TRIP!
WHEW ... ALL DONE PACK-ING!

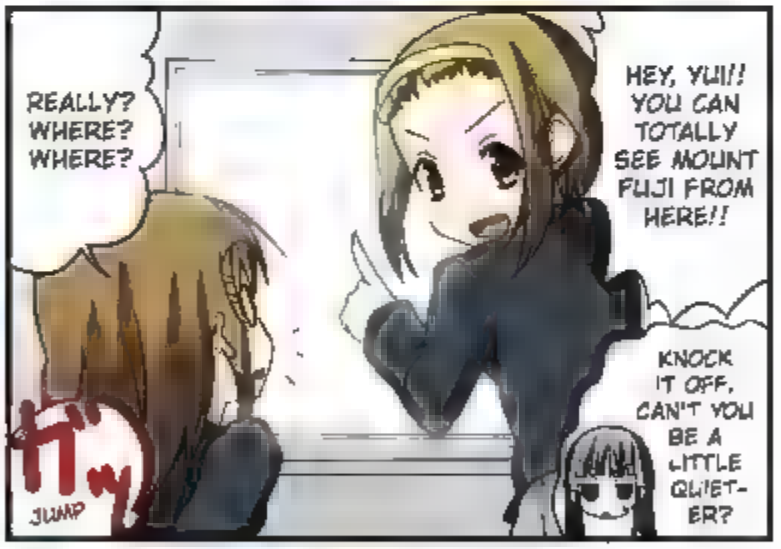
EH !?
I SWEAR ...

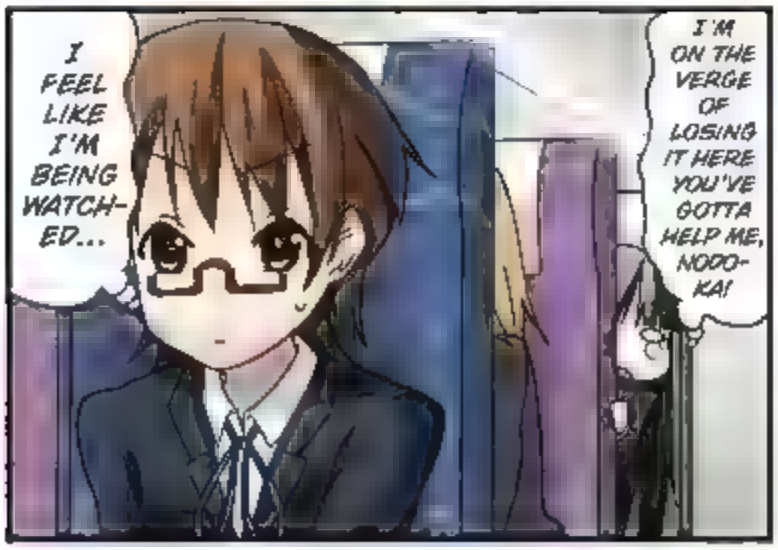
YAY!! CLASS TRIP!! CLASS TRIP!!

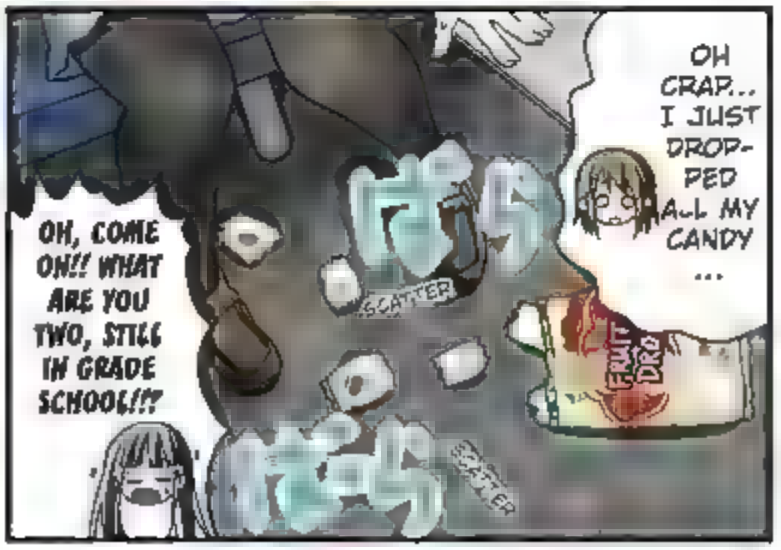

WELL, THE RULE IS ONLY FOUR TO A GROUP, AND I FIGURED YOU'D HAVE MORE FUN PARTNERED WITH THE REST OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB, RIGHT?
HOLD ON, NODOKA... YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE IN MY GROUP?


DON'T SIT CROSS-LEGGED ON THE TRAIN SEATS.
THE EXCITEMENT JUST KEEPS BUILDING AND BUILDING!!


SIGH..
I KNOW SHE'S A HANDFUL, BUT TAKE CARE OF YUI FOR ME, OKAY?
..OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE RITSU THERE TOO .


REALLY? WHERE? WHERE?
HEY, YUI!! YOU CAN TOTALLY SEE MOUNT FUJI FROM HERE!!
KNOCK IT OFF, CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE QUIETER?
JUMP


I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED...
I'M ON THE VERGE OF LOSING IT HERE YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME, NODOKA!


OH, COME ON!! WHAT ARE YOU TWO, STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL!?
OH CRAP... I JUST DROPPED ALL MY CANDY ...
SCATTER
SCATTER
FRUIT DRO

HOLY COW! IT'S SO BRIGHT AND SHINY!

京都 Kyoto Station

WE'RE HERE —!!

THAT'S RIGHT . ER, DAT'S RIGHT, YO! I DOUBT ANYONE'D NOTICE IF WE JUST TOOK A TINY BIT HOME WITH US. .ER, HOME WIT' US, YO!

SO IS THE KINKAKUJI REALLY MADE OUT OF GOLD... ER, I MEAN, OUTTA GOLD AN' SHIT?

UM, LESSEE..

KYOTO STATION INFORMATION

WE'S GOIN' TO DA KIN-KA-KUJI!!

WHERE WERE WE SUP-POSED TO GO FIRST, AGAIN?

UUUH...

LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE AL-READY BORED WITH IT.

?

KYOTO STATION INFORMATION

HEH HEH HEH

"WE'S GOIN'" -?

SHE GOT SKILLZ !!

AN' THE TRUT' IS, DEY BE CALLIN' IT ROKUONJI, YO.

YO, DIS KINKAKUJI HEA... DIS BITCH WAS ALL BURNED OUT AN' SHIT WAY BACK IN 1950 DA ONE DEY GOTS HEA IS SOME NEW SHIT DEY REBUILT AFTA.

AND SHE'S BEING ANNOY-ING YET AGAIN.

SINCE WE'RE IN KYOTO NOW, WE SHOULD PLAY A GAME WHERE WE ALL HAVE TO SAY EVERY-THING WITH A KYOTO AC-CENT... YO!!

AAAH! YOU CAN'T DO THAT —!!

DRAG

DRAG

C'MON... WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW!

THE NEXT DAY

ALL RIGHT, TODAY YOU'RE ALL FREE TO DO YOUR OWN THING. JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE BACK AT THE INN BY 6:00 TONIGHT, OKAY?

ALL RIIIGHT.

BIG GRIN

B-BUT IT'S JUST... JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT... OKAY?

YOU CAN GO TO A MUSIC STORE AFTER WE GET HOME !!

...HUH? WHERE'D YUI AND RITSU GO?

SHALL WE GET GOING?

OUR FIRST DESTINATION'S ARASHIYAMA.

WHOA, CHECK IT OUT! THEY'VE EVEN GOT SOME LEFTY MODELS?

FINE, DO WHAT YOU WANT. BUT I'M LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!!

STAAAAARE

JRA MUSIC

GWUH!!

ZIP

WHAT THE HELL!!? WE COME ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO JUST TO STOP IN SOME MUSIC STORE !!?

THIS IS THE PLACE.. WE GOTTA STOP HERE FIRST!!

UH... REALLY? THANKS. IT'S A PAIN DURING THE WINTER, THOUGH. IT GETS SO DRY.

MIO-CHAN, YOU HAVE SUCH PRETTY HAIR.

... THAT WAS SOOO FUN !!

AHHH...

.....

NO! THIS IS ALL NATURAL

YOURS IS REALLY PRETTY TOO, MUGI! DO YOU DO A WAVE PERM ON IT OR ANYTHING?

ALL NATURAL

WHADDAYA MEAN? YOU WERE TOTALLY INTO IT, MIO.

I REALLY WANTED TO SEE MORE OF THE ATTRACTIONS.

I'M TH'NKIN' MAYBE I'M GONNA GROW MY HAIR OUT TOO!

ME TOO! I WONDER WHY WE DO THAT.

MAN, I ENDED UP BUY-ING TONS OF STUFF JUST 'COS I HAD SO MUCH CASH IN MY WALLET.

HOW COME YOU'RE PICTUR-ING JUST MY BANGS LONG!?

'SUP, YUI!!

...I DON'T THINK THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

WHAT M SOME MONSTER NOW?

UH-OH.

...THAT WASN'T THE MONEY YOU GUYS WERE SUP-POSED TO BUY GIFTS WITH, WAS IT?

S-S-SAWA-CHAN... YOU'RE, LIKE, TEN TIMES SCARIER WITHOUT MAKEUP ON

I SWEAR, YOU GIRLS ARE JUST AS BAD ON VACATION!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS, I'M TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS NOW.

THAT NIGHT

GET YOUR ASSES IN BED! NOW —!!

ぷしゅう

PSHHH

EEEEK!!

KA

LOOM

NOW LISTEN HERE, GIRLS .. I'M YOUR TEACHER.

BUT WE'VE GOT SNACKS.

C'MON, SAWA-CHAN, STAY UP AND TALK WITH US.

BOX: POCKY

WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO GET UP TOMORROW MORNING!!

BUT THE NIGHT'S STILL YOUNG, MIO-CHAN~!

BEAR HUG

ぼー

WE SHOULDA KNOWN BETTER THAN TO ASK HER TO STAY...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT DOES TO MY REPUTATION, HUH?

MUNCH もぐもぐ

MUNCH もぐもぐ

YOU KNOW, A BUNCH OF THE OTHER STUDENTS ARE STARTING TO CALL ME "SAWA-CHAN" TOO, ALL ON ACCOUNT OF YOU GIRLS.

SFX: GUCHI (GRUMBLE) GUCHI GUCHI

GYAAH!!

ぼうっ

VROOM

STOPPP... ALLLL... THAAAT... RAAA-CKET...

OH, THAT REMINDS ME— I'VE BEEN MEAN NG TO SAY THANKS TO YOU, MUGI-CHAN.

...I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE ALREADY IN OUR THIRD YEAR.

MAN ...

AREN'T YOU THE REASON WHY THE GUY AT THE MUSIC STORE ALWAYS GIVES US SUCH GREAT DEALS?

HUH? BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING.

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE GONNA TURN INTO OLD GRAN-NIES BE-FORE WE KNOW IT.

TIME JUST GOES BY SO FAST, HUH?

BUT... UM...

YEAH, YOU DON'T

YOU DON'T HAFTA PLAY DUMB WITH US, YOU KNOW.

DON'T RUSH IT, MIO-CHAN!

WHY ARE YOU JUMPING ALL OVER ME?

I DON'T THINK IT'S QUITE THAT BAD YET—!!

WE'D HAVE TO BE IDIOTS NOT TO FIGURE IT OUT.

HOW'D YOU FIGURE IT OUT ...?

WH-WHAT!? NO, NO... ABSO-LUTELY NOT!! YOU'RE STIL- REALLY YOUNG, SAWA-CHAN!

ARE YOU INSINUATING SOMETHING??

DID YOU GIRLS ASK ME TO STAY JUST SO WE COULD HAVE THIS CONVER-SATION ...?

JUMP

AH, WELCOME BACK!!

WE'RE BACK, AZU-MEOW!

WE'RE ALREADY THIRD YEARS..

.....

HERE, WE BROUGHT BACK A GIFT FOR YOU

GOTTA GET MY A'ZU-MEOW HUG QUOTA IN-♡

IT WAS SO BORING HERE WITH YOU GUYS GONE

THAT MEANS JUST ONE MORE YEAR OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB...

ふか〜

A GUITAR PICK ...?

BUT DIDN'T YOU GUYS GO TO KYOTO...?

..?

うぐ...

I REALLY WISH WE COULD ALL KEEP PLAYING IN A BAND TOGETHER.

WHERE DO YOU GET THIS STUFF?

SURE, I'LL USE IT, BUT...

ピシ?

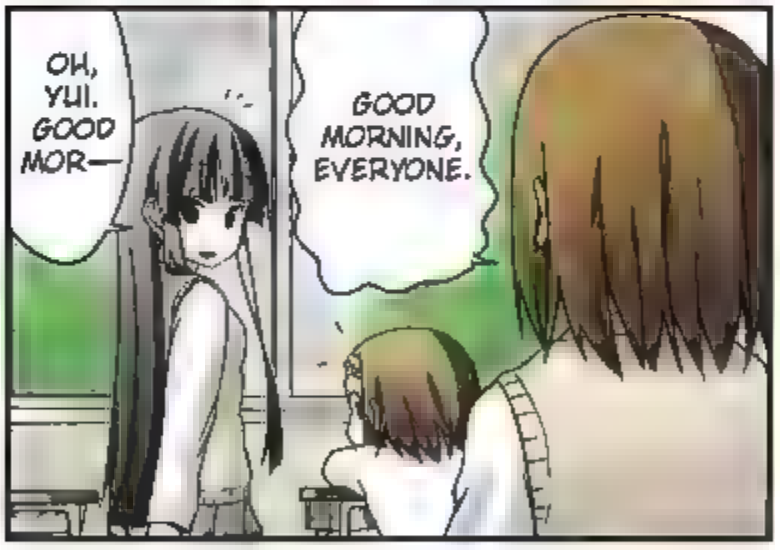
IF YOU PLAY GUITAR WITH THAT PICK, YOU'RE GONNA SOUND LIKE KYOTO !!

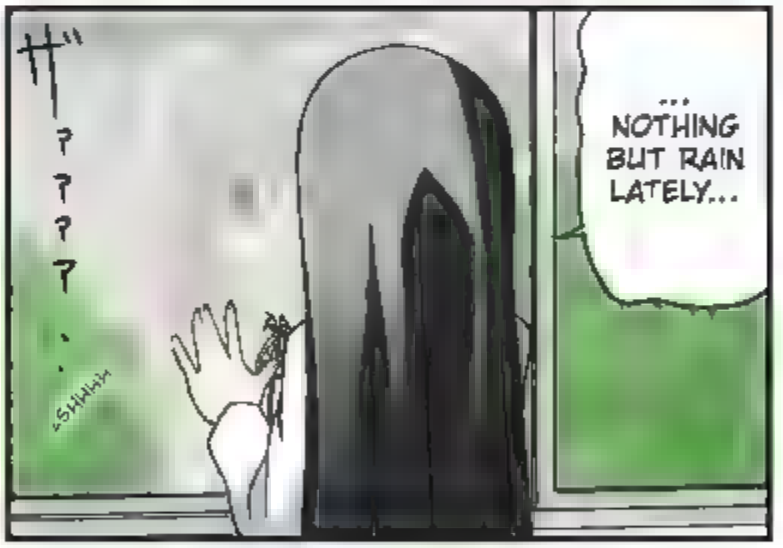
GWAAH!! YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME!!

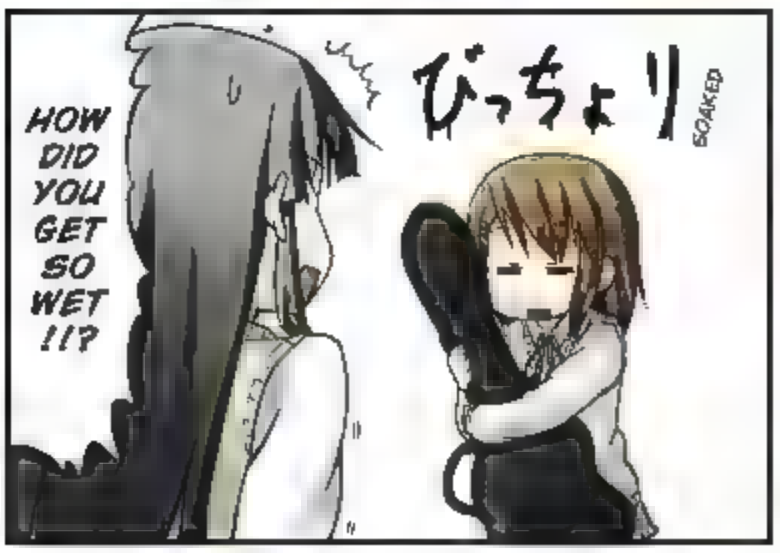
YAMA-NAKA-SENSEI!?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

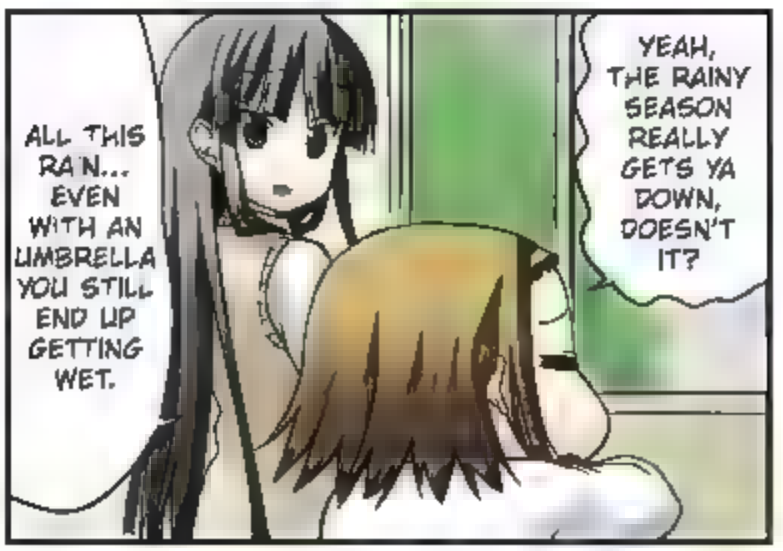
バン

AFTER SCHOOL TEATIME









WAAGH! NOW IT'S GOIN' EVERY WHICH WAY!

LOOKS LIKE YOUR HAIR'S ALL DRY NOW, BUT—

DO YOU FEEL ANY ITCHING~?

NO~ DON'T~ (BUT THIS ISN'T A HAIR SALON—!)

THAT'S WHAT REALLY SUCKS ABOUT THE RAINY SEASON HUH? IT'S SO HUMID ALL THE TIME.

MY HAIR FLIPS OUT IN THE MORNINGS TOO

AND IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO GET IT SET JUST RIGHT THIS MORNING —!

NO... NO... THAT'S NOT IT.

WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOU, YUI? DID YOU TRIP? IS THIS THE USUAL YUI STUFF?

WOW... YOU TOO, MUGI-CHAN!?

ME TOO THIS TIME OF YEAR I HAVE TO DO BATTLE IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR EVERY SINGLE MORNING.

YOU SHOULDA JUST WRAPPED IT UP IN SOME PLASTIC WRAP OR SOMETHING.

SPLOOSH ビシャアッ

I WAS JUST DOING EVERYTHING I COULD TO KEEP POOR GUI-TA FROM GETTING WET, BUT THAT MEANT ME GETTING WET INSTEAD.

THEY MAY BOTH HAVE UNRULY HAIR, BUT THAT'S WHERE THE SIMILARITY ENDS.

I GUESS THAT MAKES US THE UNRULY HAIR TWINS!

NOT REALLY. I THINK IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE.

WHOA

...WHOA, YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT. WOW, MIO-CHAN, YOU'RE SO SMART!

GOOD MORNING, CLASS. LET'S GO AHEAD AND TAKE ROLL NOW.

DUTY ROSTER

WACHOO!

OH NO! WE'VE GOTTA GET THOSE CLOTHES DRY RIGHT NOW OR YOU'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD.

UM, HIRASAWA-SAN? CAN YOU EXPLAIN THAT OUTFIT FOR US...?

MURMUR

MURMUR

MY SCHOOL UNIFORM GOT ALL WET, SO I HAD TO WEAR THIS INSTEAD.

BUT WHAT DOES SHE WEAR IN THE MEAN-TIME? WE DON'T HAVE GYM TODAY, SO THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY SWEATS FOR HER TO WEAR.

SORRY ABOUT THIS, GUYS.

SHOULD WE HANG 'EM UP TO DRY IN THE CLUB-ROOM?

YEAH... BUT STILL, THIS IS SCHOOL, AND I DON'T THINK AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT IS VERY—

WHAT THE HECK ARE YA TALKIN' ABOUT, SAWA-CHAN? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THAT—

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

CHECK IT OUT. WE'VE GOT ALL THESE OUTFITS THAT SAWA-CHAN MADE FOR US.

THE UNHOLY LEGACY OF THE POP MUSIC CLUB

I'LL LEND YOU SOME OTHER CLOTHES, OKAY? JUST COME WITH ME NOW!

HUH?

OH, COME ON—! WHY THE HELL DID YOU GO FOR THAT ONE!!?

HUH... MAYBE I BETTER CHECK IT JUST TO MAKE SURE.

JAPAN'S CLIMATE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE VERY FRIENDLY TO GUITARS.

IF THE NECK ABSORBS ANY MOISTURE IT'LL START WARPING, WHICH'LL THROW YOUR INTONATION COMPLETELY OUT OF WHACK.

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WAS A SCHOOL UNIFORM HUNG UP TO DRY IN THE CLUBROOM.

HEH... SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS HAD QUITE AN EVENTFUL MORNING...

WHAT!? HOW CAN YOU TELL WITHOUT USING A TUNER??

WHOA! YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S ABOUT HALF OF A HALF OF A HALF-TONE OFF.

EE-HEE-HEE~ DON'T STOP THERE~

SQUIRM

BUT I'VE GAINED A NEW RESPECT FOR YOU! GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS JUST TO PROTECT YOUR GUITAR!

GEEZ... BUT SHE'S RIGHT. IT'S AN EIGHTH-TONE OFF, JUST LIKE YUI-SENPAI SAID.

JUMP

I HEARD THAT IF YOU LET YOUR GUITAR GET WET AND DON'T DRY IT OFF, YOU'LL GET MOLD AND STUFF GROWING ON THE FRETBOARD.

WHAT A WASTE OF TALENT —!!

THEN PLEASE FIX IT FOR ME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW

YEEEE!!

LIKE YOU OPEN THE CASE AND THERE'S MOLD EVERYWHERE... ♡

OHHH... YEAHHH... I GUESS MAYBE I SHOULD.

YUI, WHY NOT LEAVE YOUR GUITAR HERE TOO? OTHERWISE IT'LL BE A REPEAT OF THIS MORNING.

NO KIDDING.

SHHHHH

GEEZ, WILL THIS RAIN NEVER END ...?

.....

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NOW IF ANY STRANGERS COME UP AND TALK TO YOU, DON'T FOLLOW THEM. NO MATTER WHAT, OKAY?

THEN I GUESS I'LL LEAVE MY BAGS HERE TO-NIGHT

THEY WERE SAYING ON THE WEATHER THAT IT'S GONNA BE RAINY TO-MORROW TOO.

SO "ELIZA-BASS" BECAUSE IT'S A BASS, HUH? IN THAT CASE, MAYBE I SHOULD CALL MINE "MUT-TAN" BECAUSE IT'S A FENDER MUSTANG...

WHA— DO WHAT !?

HOW COULD YOU DO THAT, MIO-CHAN!??

STAY OUT OF MY HEAD !!

I THINK THAT'S A PERRR-FECT NICK-NAME FOR IT. ♡

I'M JUST LEAVING IT HERE 'COS I DON'T WANT IT TO GET WET!! AND DON'T GO GIVING MY BASS SOME STUPID NICKNAME !!

I FEEL SO BAD FOR YOU, ELIZA-BASS... JUST ABANDONED LIKE THAT...

YEAH. BUT WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE, YUI-SENPAI REALLY DOES TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER GUITAR, DOESN'T SHE?

I BET EVEN THE INSIDES OF MY SHOES ARE GONNA GET WET

JIMINY CHRIST-MAS! IT'S REALLY COMIN' DOWN!

ZHHH

サアアア・・・

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE MADE SUCH A FUSS ABOUT JUST LEAVING IT FOR ONE NIGHT.

WHAT YUI DOES ISN'T QUITE THE SAME THING AS "TAKING GOOD CARE OF IT," THOUGH.

THE MUSIC ROOM GETS LOCKED AT NIGHT, SO I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE.

I'M SO WOR-RIED ABOUT GUI-TA. I REALLY HOPE NO ONE STEALS H.M...

HUH?

OH, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE ONE TO BE TALKING THERE?

SEE YA LATER.

ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE. SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

WWAAAH!!

...I CAN'T SEE IT

RITSUUU-!

REAL TINY

HEY, AZUSA... YOU WANNA HEAR A STORY ABOUT MIO? WHEN SHE GOT A TINY SCRATCH ON HER VERY FIRST BASS, SHE CAME TO ME BAWLING HER HEAD OFF.

GUESS SHE ENDS UP GETTING WET EVEN WITH-OUT THE GUITAR.

I'M SO WORRIED..

I'M SO WORRIED

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

うぅ SOB

WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG!?

UUUU… !!!!…

うぅ SOB

LATER THAT NIGHT

MAYBE IT'S TIME I GOT MYSELF OFF TO BED.

YAWN

うぅ～ん

SCRATCH カリ…

SCRATCH カリ…

I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT POOR GUI-TA! I LEFT HIM AT SCHOOL OVERNIGHT, AND NOW I CAN'T SLEEP—!!

HUH… WHAT'S THAT? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

SCRATCH カリ…

SCRATCH カリ…

SCRATCH カリ…

OHH… OH NO… DON'T TELL ME IT'S A BUR-GLAR!

COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE HAS BEEN PRACTICING EVERY DAY EVER SINCE SHE BOUGHT THAT GUITAR.

ONEE-CHAN …

O… ONEE-CHAN!! THERE'S SOME WEIRD NOISE IN THE—

CLACK

ガチャッ

ONEE-CHAN! THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR!! AND IT'S RAIN-ING!! AND YOU'RE IN YOUR PAJAMAS —!!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE! I'M GONNA GO BACK AND GET HIM RIGHT NOW!

…WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, ONEE-CHAN …?

SCRATCH カリ…

AFTER SCHOOL

ガラッ

EMPTY

THE NEXT DAY

BIG GRIN

にこにこ♡

YUI KEPT GOING ON ABOUT WHAT IF YOU GOT STOLEN, SO I GUESS I STARTED TO GET WORRIED TOO...

AHH... THERE YOU ARE.

YOU WERE ONLY WITHOUT IT FOR ONE DAY...BUT YOU SURE ARE ALL SMILES NOW, AREN'T YOU?

...MY ELIZA-BASS. ♡

RIGHT!!

I GUESS IT JUST SHOWS HOW IM-PORTANT THAT GUITAR IS TO YOU, HUH?

GYAAAH!!

にや SMIRK

にや SMIRK

にや SMIRK

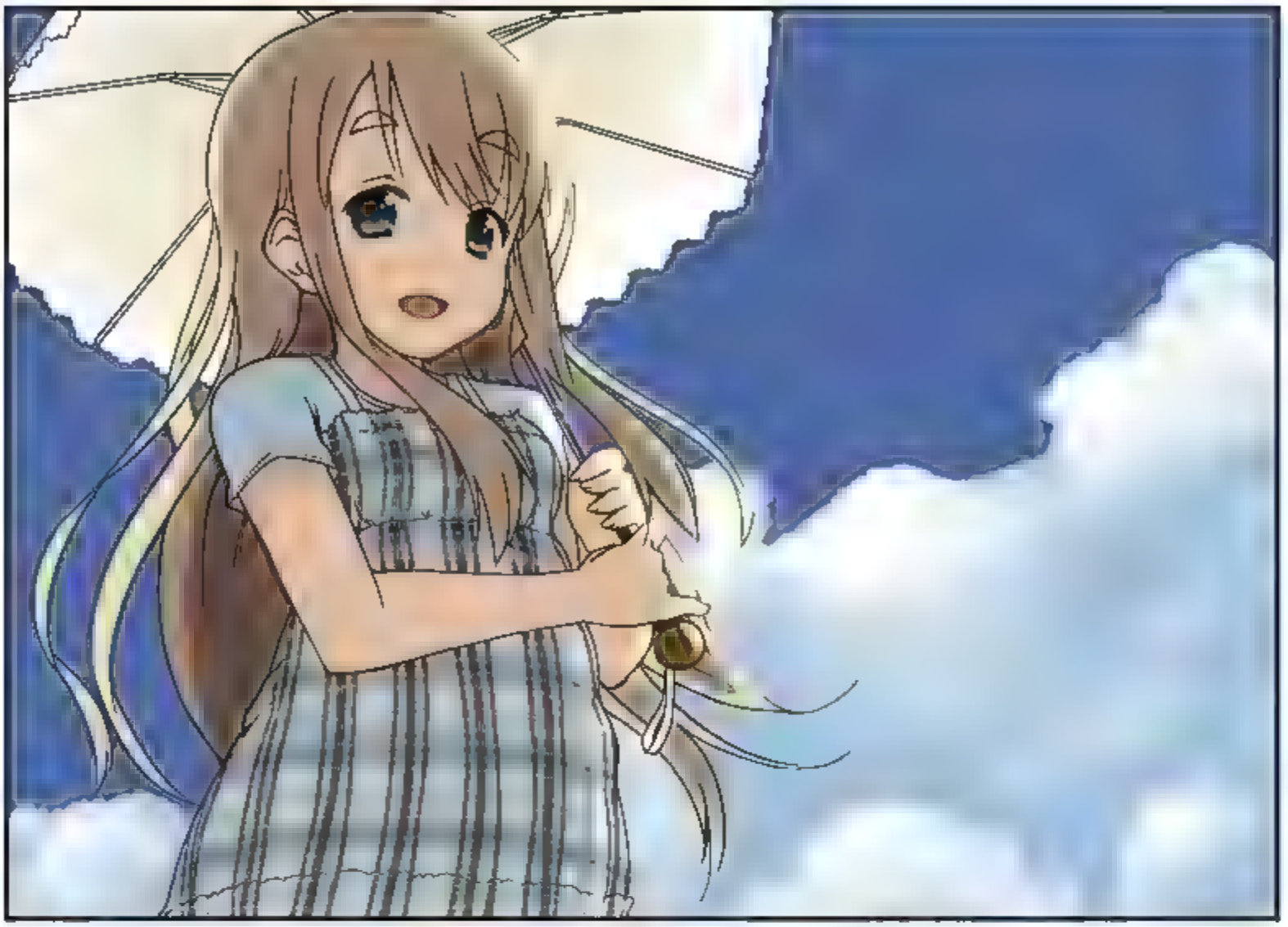
にや SMIRK

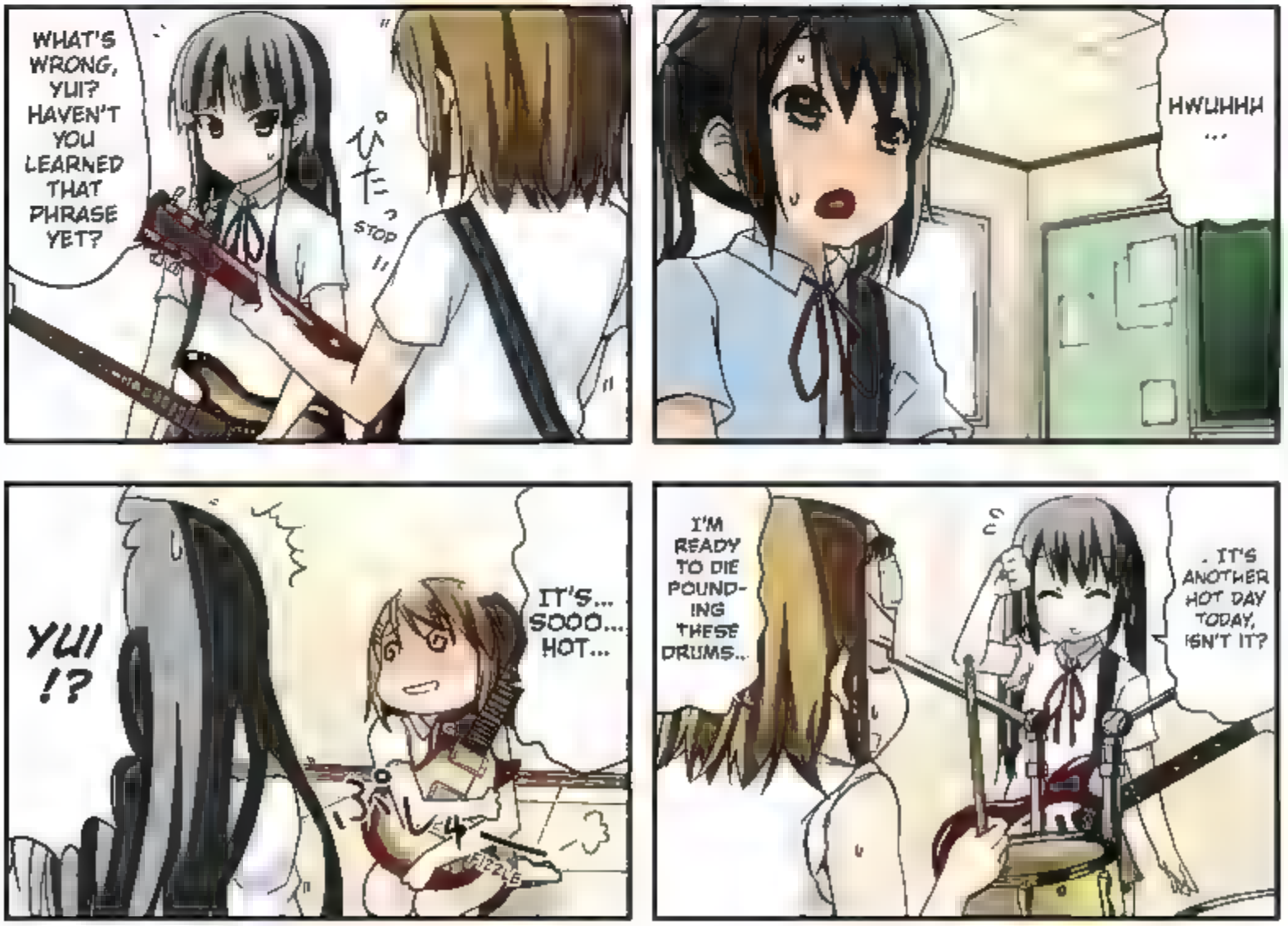
にや SMIRK

OH, DON'T MIND ME.

THAT'S THE POINT. I DO MIND!

SO I TOTALLY GET THAT... BUT WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF HOMEROOM RIGHT NOW SO WOULD YOU MIND PUTTING IT AWAY FOR A BIT?




WHAT'S WRONG, YUI? HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED THAT PHRASE YET?
ぴた
STOP
HWUHHH ...
YUI !?
IT'S... SOOO... HOT...
I'M READY TO DIE POUND-ING THESE DRUMS..
. IT'S ANOTHER HOT DAY TODAY, ISN'T IT?

MY NECK GETS ALL STEAMY 'COS OF MY LONG HAIR...

BUT MAN, IT REALLY IS HOT TODAY.

I JUST WISH THERE WOULDN'T EVEN BE A SUMMER ANYMORE...

BUT AS SOON AS IT'S WINTER, YOU'RE GONNA BE SAYING THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

ほげー

SPRAWL

WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME TO...

JUMP

ビクッ

じり

INCH

HERE, SENPAI... HERE'S SOME WATER FOR YOU.

OH!

...TIE YOUR HAIR UP IN PIG-TAILS!!

HEY, NOW YOU LOOK LIKE AZUSA-CHAN!

WHOA! WATCH THE WATER !!

THANK YOU SOOO MUCH, AZU-MEOW! ♡

キュッ♡

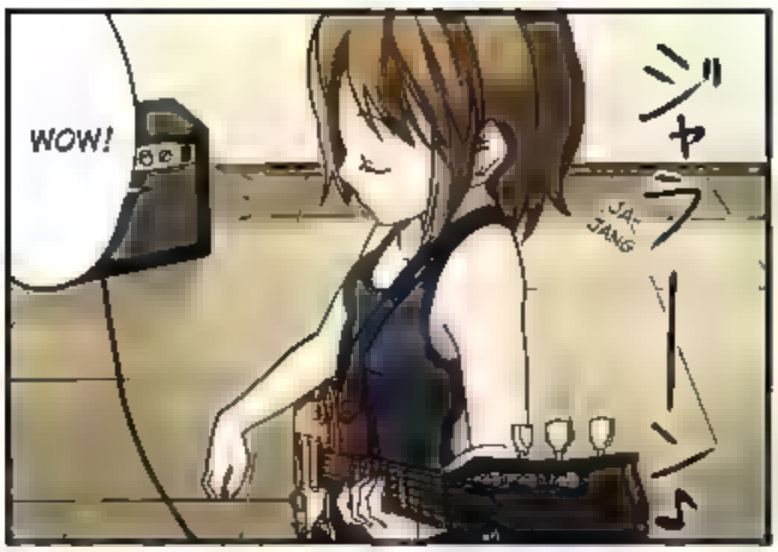
...YEAH, I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY SUI—

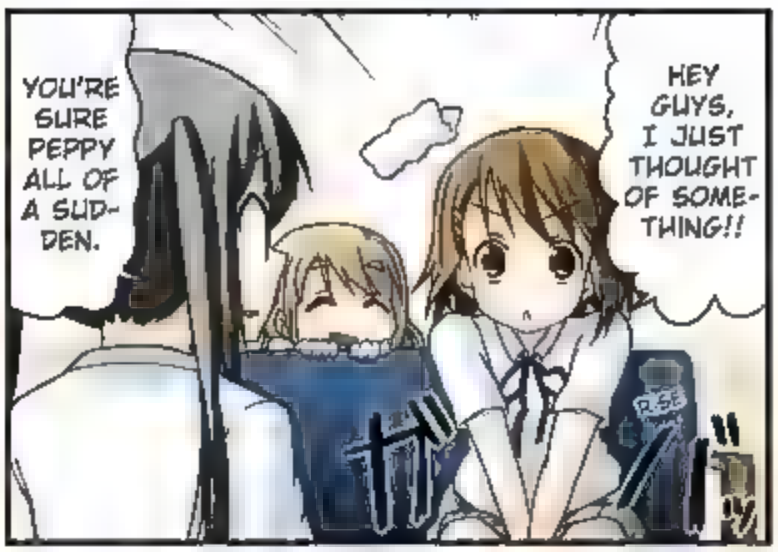
IF IT'S THAT HOT, THEN KNOCK IT OFF.

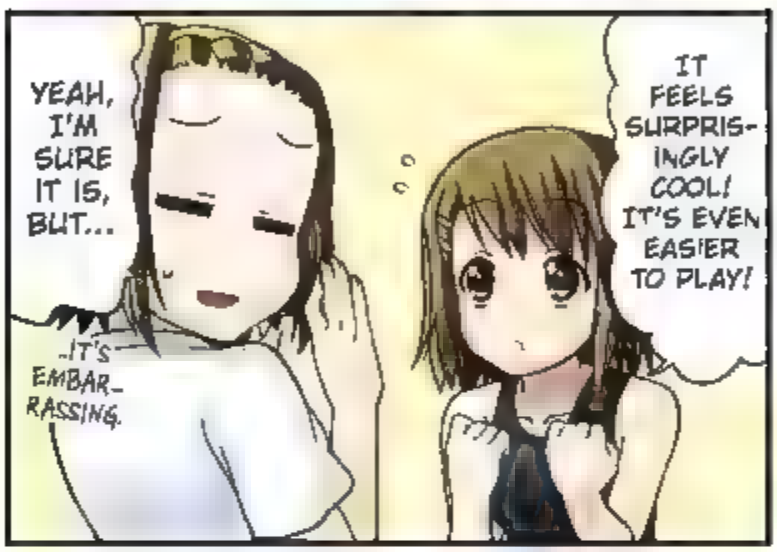
FEELS-SOOO-HOT-

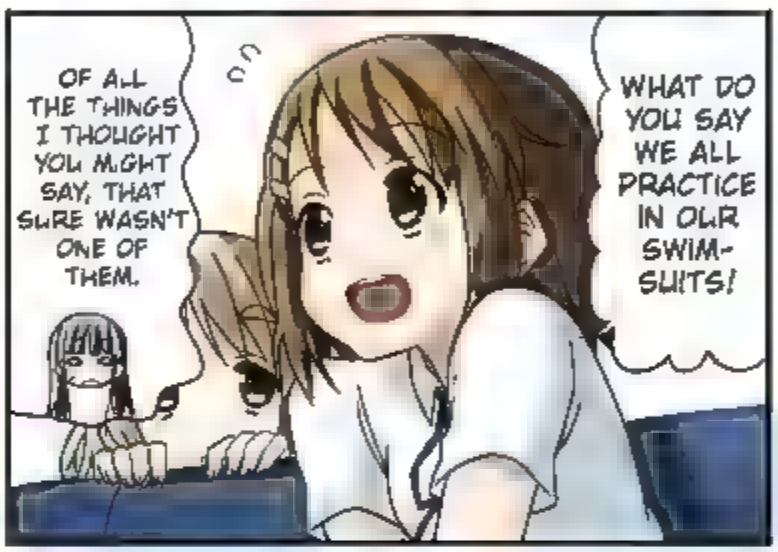
すり

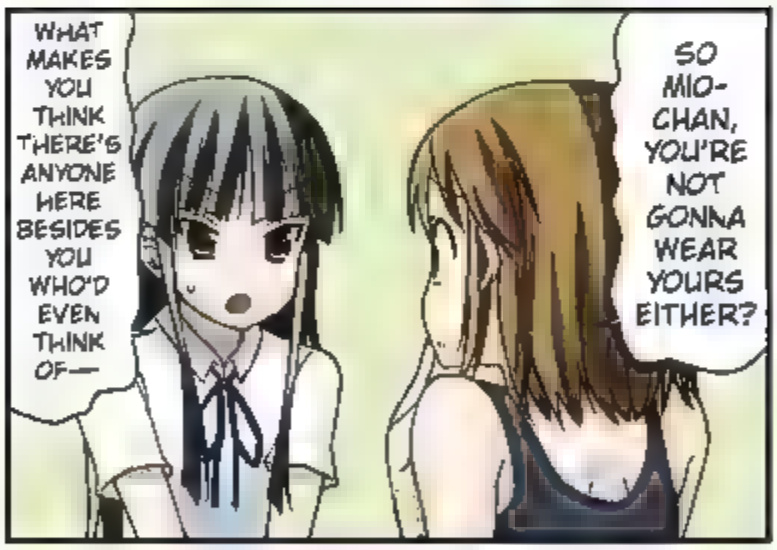
RUB

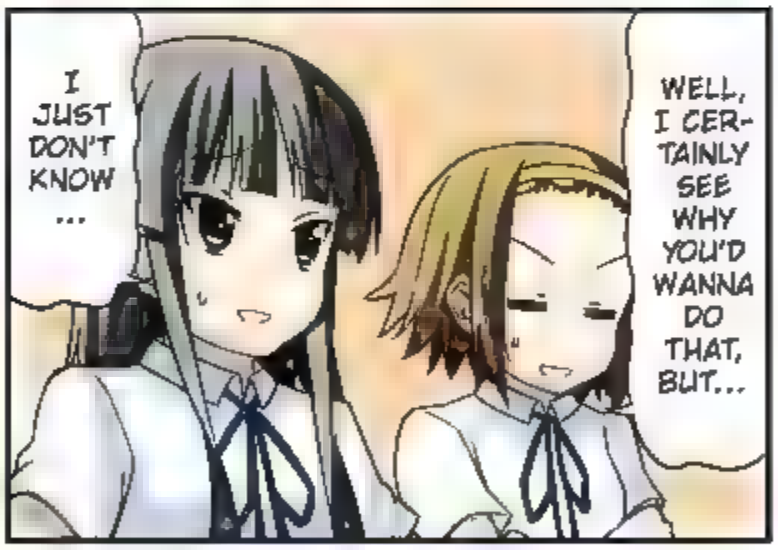

WOW!
ジャラーン
JAL-JANG

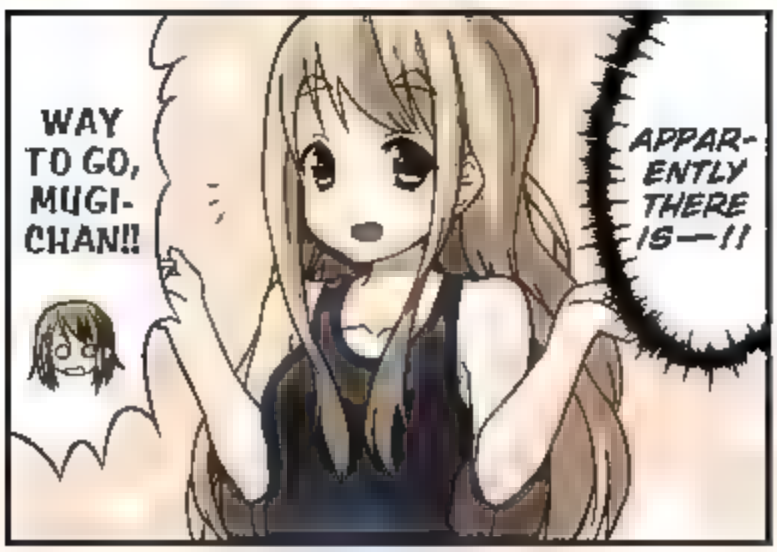

YOU'RE SURE PEPPY ALL OF A SUD-DEN.
HEY GUYS, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING!!

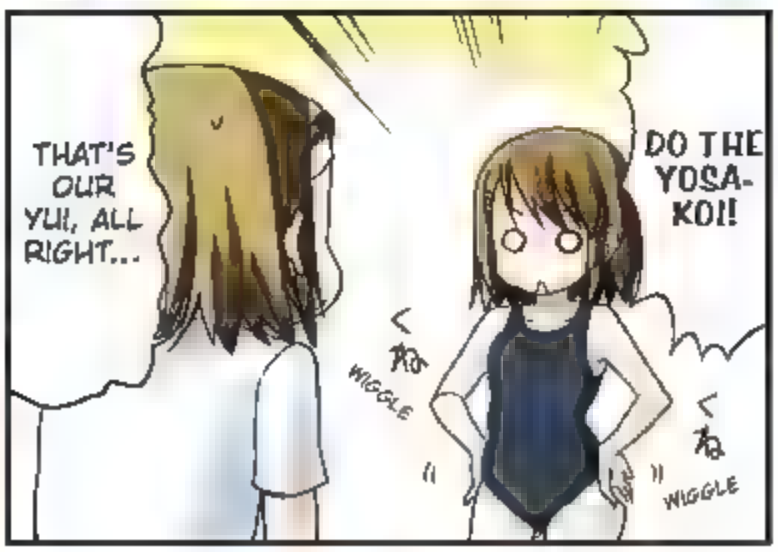

YEAH, I'M SURE IT IS, BUT...
..IT'S EMBAR-RASSING.
IT FEELS SURPRIS-INGLY COOL! IT'S EVEN EASIER TO PLAY!

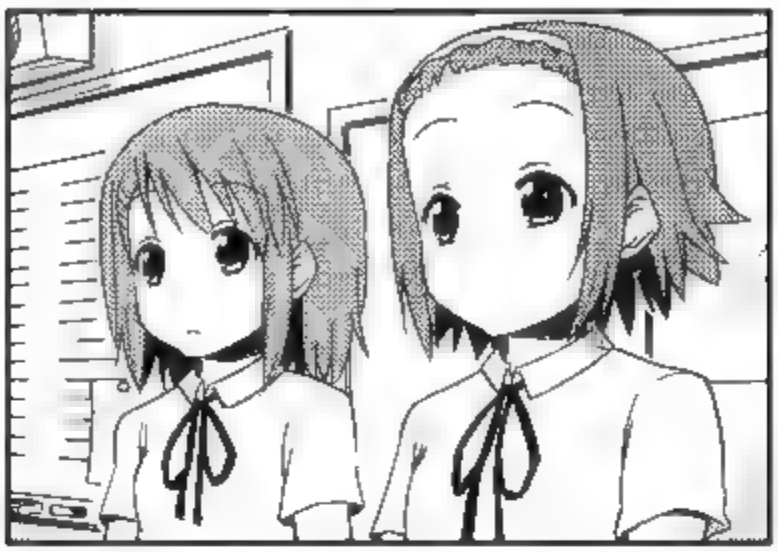

OF ALL THE THINGS I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY, THAT SURE WASN'T ONE OF THEM.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE ALL PRACTICE IN OUR SWIM-SUITS!


WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THERE'S ANYONE HERE BESIDES YOU WHO'D EVEN THINK OF—
SO MIO-CHAN, YOU'RE NOT GONNA WEAR YOURS EITHER?


I JUST DON'T KNOW ...
WELL, I CER-TAINLY SEE WHY YOU'D WANNA DO THAT, BUT...


WAY TO GO, MUGI-CHAN!!
APPAR-ENTLY THERE IS—!!


THAT'S OUR YUI, ALL RIGHT...
DO THE YOSA-KOI!
WIGGLE
WIGGLE



THE FLAVOR SPREADS THROUGH MY WHOLE MOUTH~
YUMMY~ WUMMY~

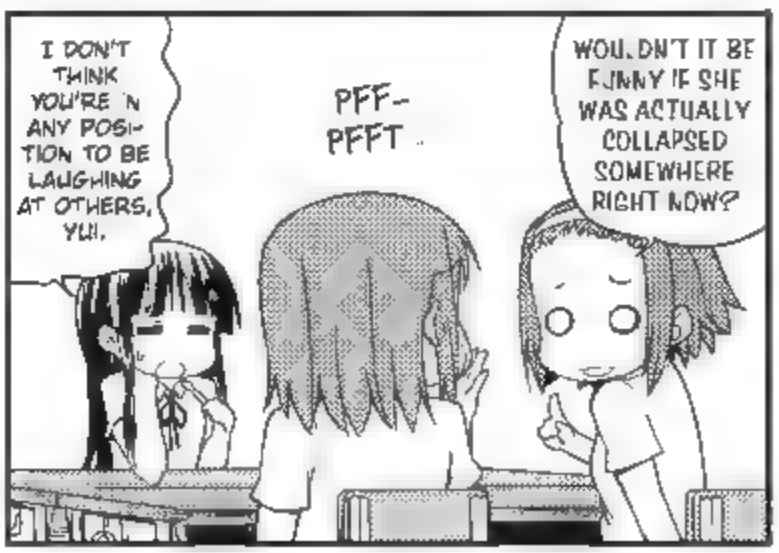
WHAT-CHA DOIN' IN THE FACULTY ROOM?
OH, HI GIRLS. WHAT'S UP?

SHOULD WE GO TALK TO SAWAKO-SENSEI ABOUT IT AFTER THIS?
THANKS.
IT'S JUST IMPOS-SIBLE TO PRACTICE IN THIS HEAT, HUH?

そよ～
WHOOSH
つや BEAM
つや BEAM

I SAY BETTER WITHOUT HER. ONE MORE PERSON JUST MAKES IT THAT MUCH MORE STIFLING IN HERE
SPEAK-ING OF SAWA-CHAN, SHE HASN'T COME BY LATELY, HAS SHE?

WHERE ARE YOU GIRLS TAKING ME...?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
? ?
ず～ 3 DRAG
ず～ 3 DRAG


I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN ANY POSI-TION TO BE LAUGHING AT OTHERS, YUI.
PFF- PFFT
WOULDN'T IT BE FUNNY IF SHE WAS ACTUALLY COLLAPSED SOMEWHERE RIGHT NOW?

HMMM... LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NOTHING THAT SAYS WE CAN'T RENT A STUDIO USING CLUB FUNDS...

SOOO ... HOT ...

....

...BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS TO GO MORE THAN A COUPLE OF TIMES.

OKAY. . THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

I HAVE NO IDEA. NOW LEAVE ME ALONE ...

COULD WE RENT A STUDIO USING CLUB FUNDS?

DO SOME-THING, SAWA-CHAN.

AN AIR CONDI-TIONER! LET'S BUY AN AIR CONDI-TIONER!!

CLATTER

WHERE ARE WE GONNA GET THAT KIND OF MONEY?

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I'M GOING BACK TO THE FACULTY ROOM.

DYING

SENSEI, DO YOU WANT AN ICE CREAM FLOAT?

PART-TIME JOBS! LET'S GET PART-TIME JOBS!!

I'M RARIN' TA GO!!

YO!

UM... JUST ASKING HERE, BUT AREN'T YOU SUP-POSED TO BE STUDY-ING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS?

I'LL GO AND ASK RIGHT AWAY!!

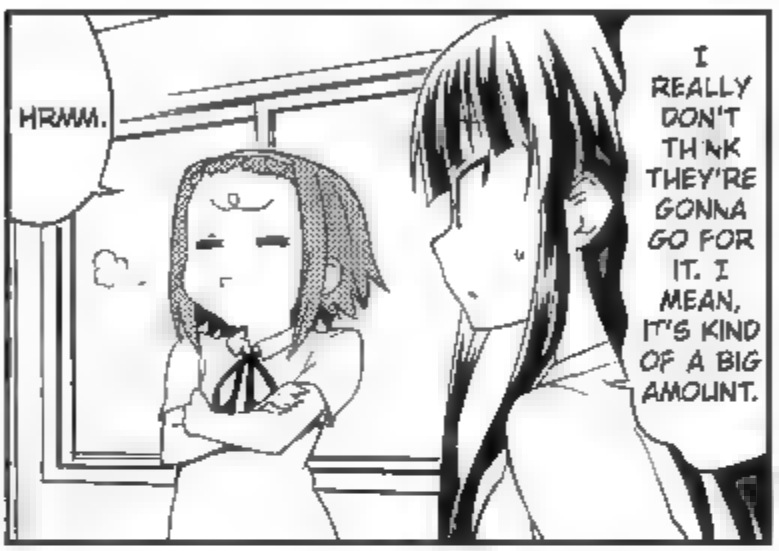
SHE'S PATHETI-CALLY EASY TO MANIPU-LATE!!

LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!

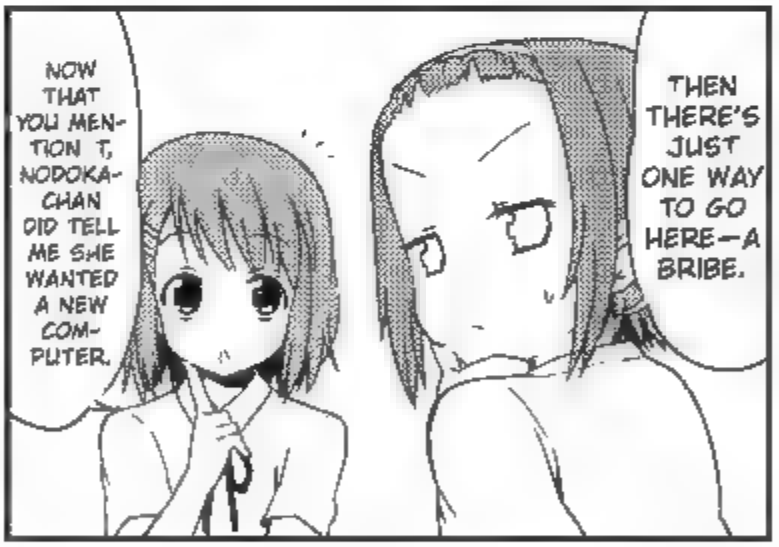
WHAT —!!?
NODOKA, COME QUICK!! YUI'S PASSED OUT FROM THE HEAT!!

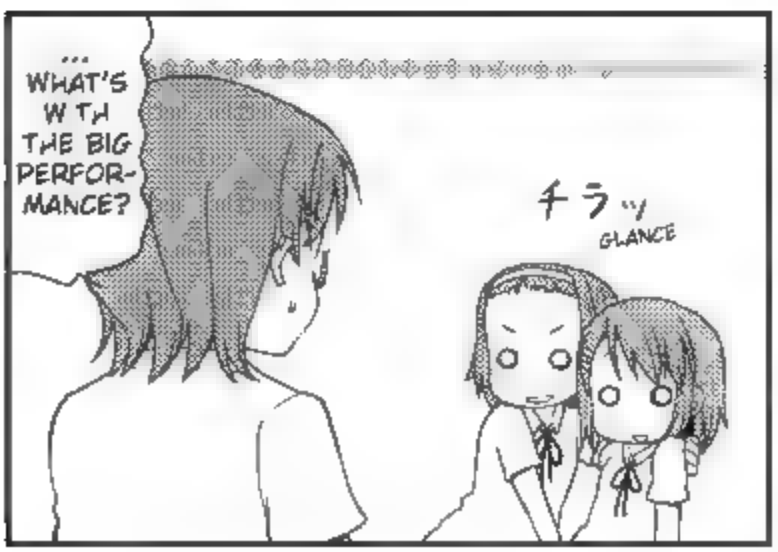
GREAT IDEA —!!
YUMMY!
YOU GIRLS WANNA GO ASK THE STUDENT COUNCIL IF THEY'LL PITCH IN FOR ONE?

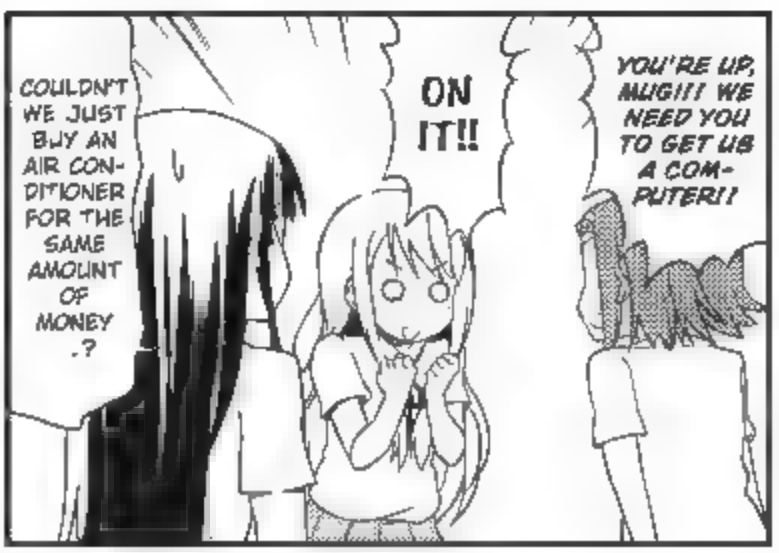
RI...RIT-CHAN...BE... BEFORE I DIE...I JUST...JUST WISH I COULDA...


HRMM.
I REALLY DON'T THINK THEY'RE GONNA GO FOR IT. I MEAN, IT'S KIND OF A BIG AMOUNT.

YUI? ..... YUI !!?
ガッ GA-GONK
...COULDA SNAPPED MY FINGERS... JUST ONCE...


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, NODOKA-CHAN DID TELL ME SHE WANTED A NEW COMPUTER.
THEN THERE'S JUST ONE WAY TO GO HERE—A BRIBE.


... WHAT'S W TH THE BIG PERFOR-MANCE?
チラッ GLANCE


COULDN'T WE JUST BUY AN AIR CONDITIONER FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY .?
ON IT!!
YOU'RE UP, MUGI!! WE NEED YOU TO GET US A COMPUTER!!

HUH?

YOU MEAN THE AIR CONDI-TIONER?

...SO? WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?

SORRY FOR ALL THE FUSS.

LICK LICK

NEOWWH

THE SCHOOL GAVE THE GO-AHEAD TO INSTALL AIR CONDI-TIONERS IN CLUBROOMS TOO, SO I MADE THE ANNOUNCE-MENT THAT ANY CLUB WHO WANTED ONE SHOULD JUST APPLY FOR IT.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID AT THE LAST CLUB PRES-IDENTS' MEETING?

WAIT, YUI. HOW COME THIS ROOM FEELS SO COOL !?

HAWW もじ

ACTUALLY, NODOKA-CHAN... THERE WAS THIS TEENSY LITTLE FAVOR WE WANTED TO ASK OF YOU...

もじ HEM

WELL, I FORGOT TO GO TO THAT MEET-ING!!

.....

OVER THERE!

THEY'VE GOT AN AIR CONDI-TIONER —!!

I...I THINK IT'S FINE ...

C-CAN WE STILL GET ONE IF WE APPLY RIGHT NOW —!?

SWELL

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

YOU'RE ABUSING YOUR POWER !!

NO-DOKA-CHAN, THAT'S NOT FAIR !!

I SWEAR ...

TEE HEE! ♡

JUST KID-DING! ☆

キラ SPARKLE

SPARKLE キラ

JA-JANG

1, 2, 3, 4

ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S GO—!

COM-PLETELY HEAVEN

THIS IS HEAVEN.

WHAT'S UP, YUI? YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED THIS PART YET?

ピタ

STOP

NOW WE CAN FINALLY GET IN SOME GOOD PRAC-TICE!!

IT'S SO COOL IN HERE NOW! ♡

WHAT THE HELL!? WHAT ARE WE SUP-POSED TO DO, THEN!?

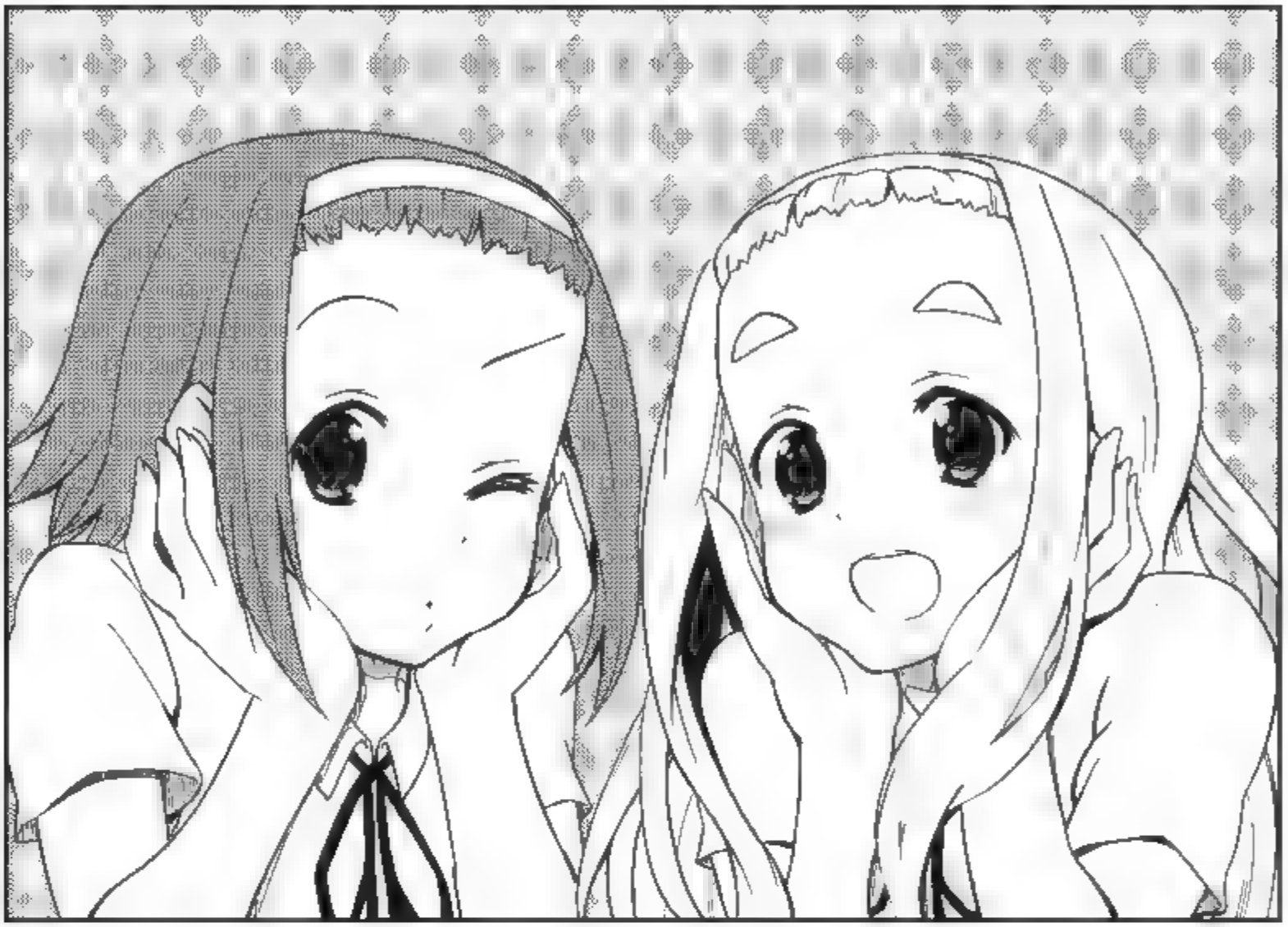
I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD

I FORGOT HOW I'M REALLY SENSI-TIVE TO AIR CON-DITION-ING...

PLONK ペタン

HEY.

BUT IT'S OKAY IF WE JUST TAKE TODAY OFF, RIGHT?



HUH? RITSU AGAIN?
BRRRRRING
プルルルル
SHEESH... DOES RITSU EVER STUDY ...?

HM? OH, IT'S RITSU.
AND THIS IS THAT, SO...
BRRRRRING
プルルルル

AARGH —!! STOP IT!!
Sweh heh heh... Hey sexy. What kinda panties ya got on?

I CAN'T TODAY! I'VE GOTTA GO TO SUMMER SCHOOL IN JUST A LITTLE BIT.
Hey Mio, wanna come over and hang out? I'm at the station right now.

GOD... DAMN... IT... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT ME LIKE THAT...

SHIVER SHIVER ブルブル

I SPOTTED YOU BACK THERE, RIT-CHAN, SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY AND SCARE YOU.

HM?

WELL, I'VE DONE MY USUAL BIT... BUT NOW WHAT DO I DO?

OH, OKAY. I WAS JUST TH NKIN' MAYBE WE COULD GO DO SOME-TH NG IF YOU WEREN'T BUSY.

BY THE WAY, MUG, WERE YOU HEADIN' SOMEWHERE JUST NOW?

YEAH. I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO BUY STUFF TO TAKE ON OUR SUMMER RETREAT.

WOH! MUGI SIGHTED !!

STROLL

STROLL

ABOUT THAT THING TODAY? LET'S CANCEL... RIGHT LET'S JUST DO IT ANOTHER DAY

HELLO? HI, IT'S ME

I COULDA SWORN SHE WENT DOWN THIS ALLEY-WAY...

MAYBE I SHOULD SCARE THE CRAP OUTTA... HUH? WHERE'D SHE GO?

UH... ARE YOU SURE??

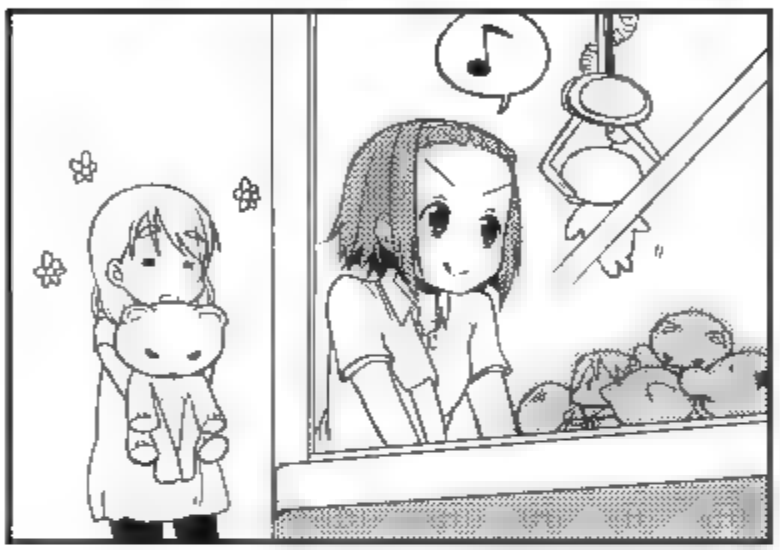
BUSY? ARE YOU KID-DING!? I AM SOOO NOT BUSY !!

GYAAAAH!!

BOO!!

DrumMania
BAD

OKAY, THEN. SO WHERE SHOULD WE GO?



ALL RIGHT... I SAY WE GO SOME-PLACE YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY GO. LIKE MAYBE A GAME CENTER OR A CANDY STORE OR SOME-THING!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANY GOOD PLACES. HOW ABOUT YOU DECIDE, RIT-CHAN?

TEN YEN!?

OH, RIGHT... I GUESS YOU'D RATHER GO SOME-PLACE A LITTLE FANCIER?
A "CANDY STORE"...?

OHHHHHHHHHH~
GOOOO

WHOA ... WHOA ...!
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF A CANDY STORE!?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A STORE THAT JUST SELLS CANDY! IT SOUNDS SO FUN! TAKE ME, TAKE ME!

WHAT IS IT?

FIDGET もじ

FIDGET もじ

...LISTEN, RIT-CHAN, I ACTU-ALLY HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.

HWWWOWW!!

.....

...I WANT YOU TO HIT ME!!

I...I WANT ...

GLAD YOU LIKED IT.

THAT WAS SO. MUCH. FUN! ♡

...HUH?

RIT-CHAN, YOU KNOW ALL KINDS OF PLACES I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF! IT'S SO COOL!

HEE-HEE-HEE . JUST KEEP THE COM-PLIMENTS COMIN'.

WOW... I NEVER KNEW MUGI WAS INTO THAT KINDA THING.

.. WOULD YOU MIND?

WELL, FOR NORMAL PEOPLE, EVEN WHAT LITTLE WE SPENT TODAY STILL FEELS LIKE A LOT...

RIT-CHAN— YOU'RE A TOTAL EXPERT AT HAVING FUN USING HARDLY ANY MONEY!

WE GOT THIS THING FOR, LIKE, SOO YEN!

I CAN'T DO IT!! I JUST CAN'T HIT YOU!!

AAAAH!!

..AND YOU TWO ARE ALWAYS HITTING EACH OTHER AND GETTING HIT. IT'S LIKE A FORM OF PHYSICAL INTIMACY, DON'T YOU THINK?

スパーン

THU-WACK!

I JUST SEE YOU AND MIO-CHAN TOGETHER...

WHAT SHE IMAGINES

I MEAN. WHEN YOU'RE JUST SITTING THERE ALL DEFENSELESS LIKE THAT, IT ACTUALLY MAKES IT HARDER TO HIT YOU, IF THAT MAKES ANY SENSE.

しょん...

HEARTBROKEN

...REALLY? I JUST THINK IT HURTS.

THAT KIND OF THING JUST SEEMS SO WONDERFUL TO ME.

IT'S KIND OF A TIMING THING, YOU KNOW?

I'LL DO IT NEXT TIME SOMETHING COMES UP!

YES, PLEASE!!

SO, UM... YOU WANT ME TO GO AHEAD AND HIT YOU, THEN?

AAH—!! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!!

MMMPH

I UNDERSTAND! THEN I'LL JUST REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING HIT BY YOU, RITCHAN!!

TREMBLE TREMBLE

GOTTA LOOK AROUND FIRST AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO BODYGUARDS OR ANYTHING...

THAT NIGHT

...AND GUESS WHAT? I BUMPED INTO MUGI ON THE STREET.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY, RIT-CHAN.

YOU TOO. I'M GLAD I DIDN'T HAFTA SPEND MY DAY OFF SITTING AROUND DOIN' NOTHING.

I took her to that candy store and she had so much fun there!

And I swear, that Mugi has gotta be an even bigger ditz than Yui. She was so funny!

BUT I HAVE TO SAY, YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD DATE, RIT-CHAN.

IF YOU WERE A BOY, I'M SURE ALL THE GIRLS WOULD BE CRAWLING ALL OVER YOU!

.....
.....

...HELLO? MIO? AM I INTERRUPT-ING YOUR STUDYING...? I'M REALLY SORRY. I'LL LET YOU GO NOW.

.....
.....

WHAT'D I SAY?

Why didn't you invite ME to come along too!??

HEY.

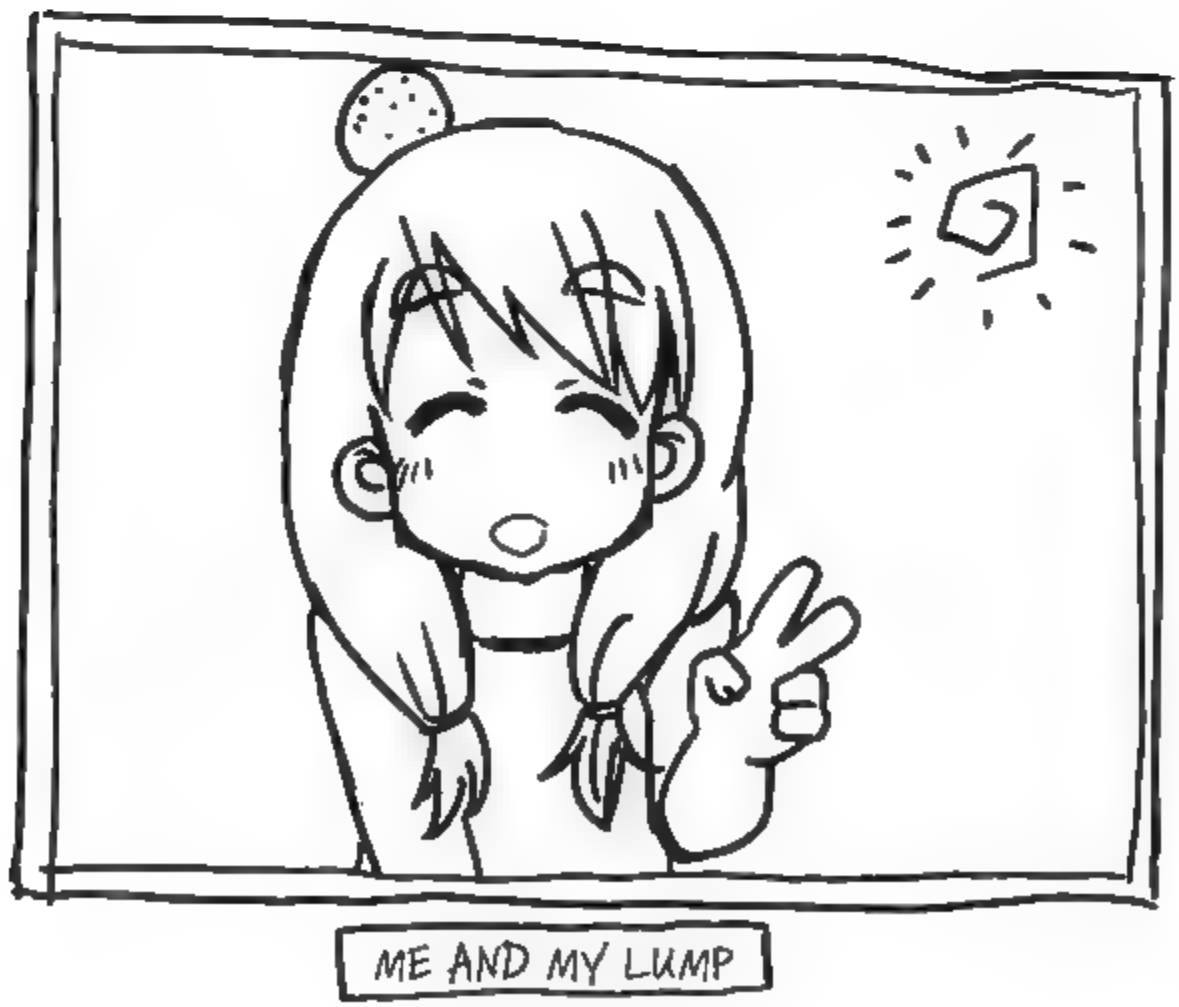
HOW THE HELL DO YA EXPECT ME TO RESPOND TO THAT, YA FLOOPY WEIRDO —!!?

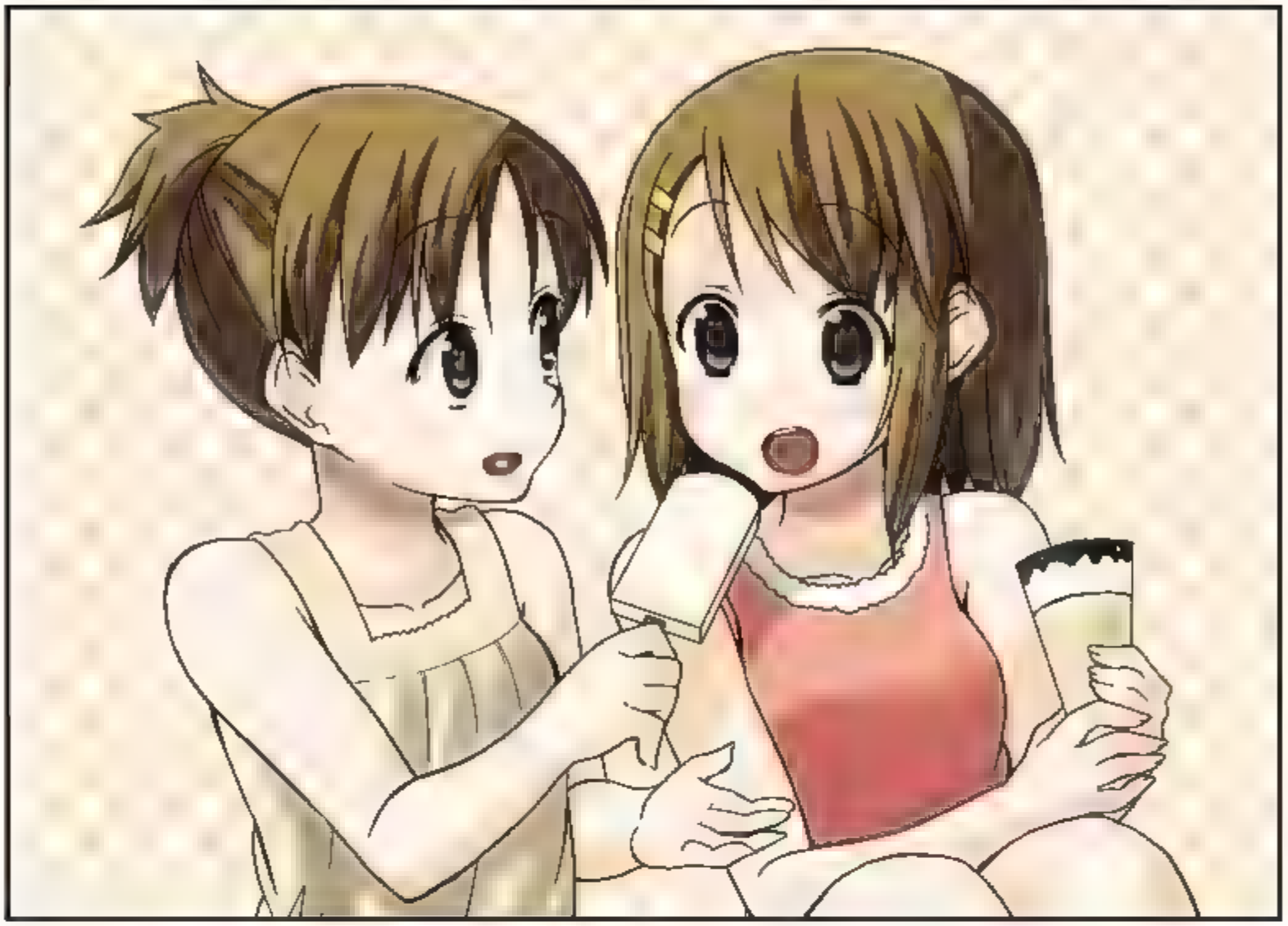
KA-KONK

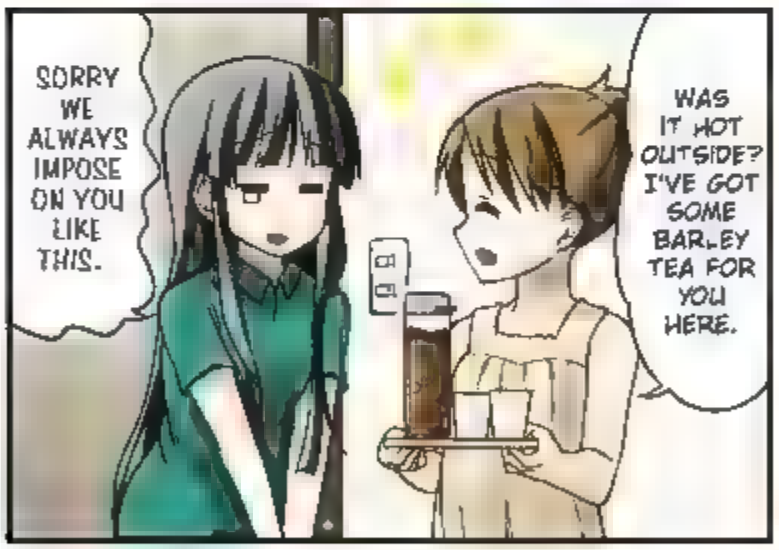
ポコーン

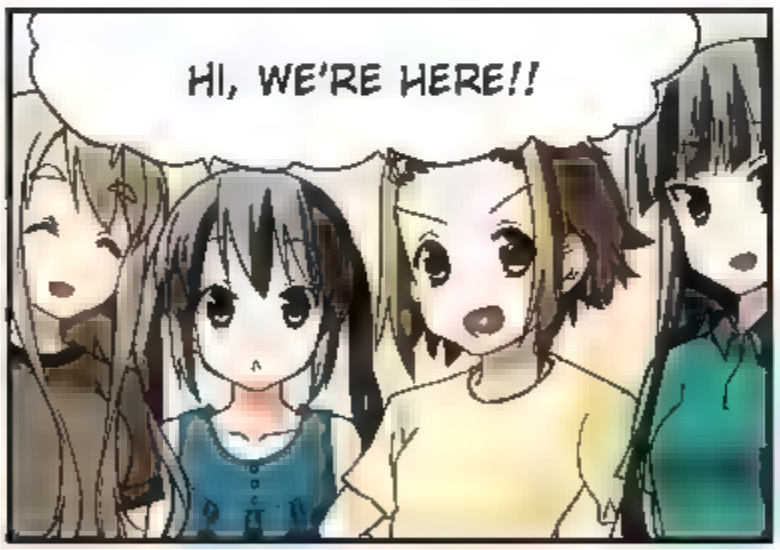
OWWW!!

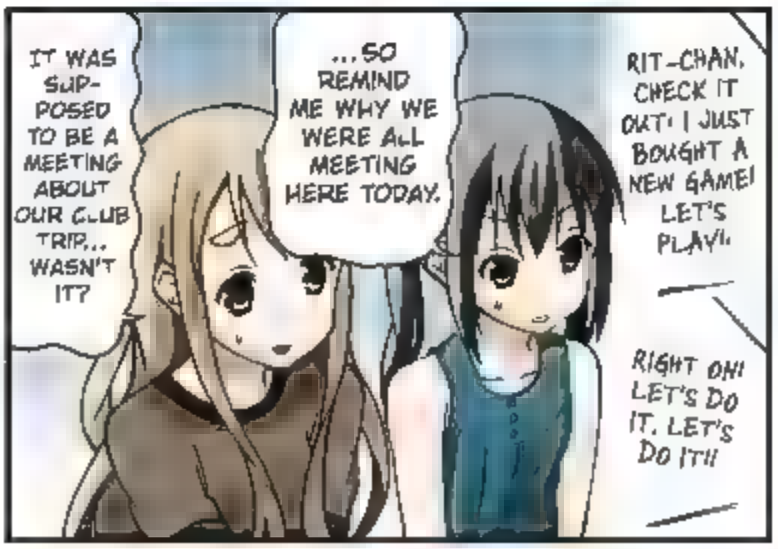
EH
HEH
HEE
HEE...

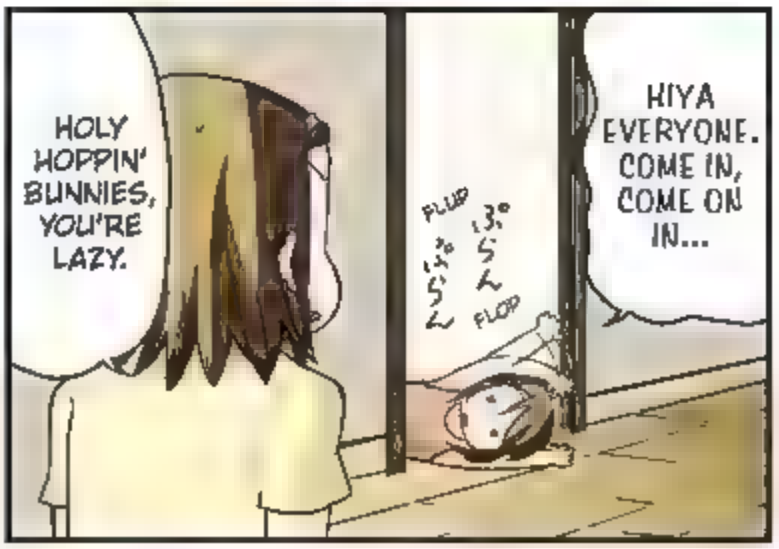

ME AND MY LUMP




SORRY WE ALWAYS IMPOSE ON YOU LIKE THIS.
WAS IT HOT OUTSIDE? I'VE GOT SOME BARLEY TEA FOR YOU HERE.


HI, WE'RE HERE!!


IT WAS SUP-POSED TO BE A MEETING ABOUT OUR CLUB TRIP... WASN'T IT?
...SO REMIND ME WHY WE WERE ALL MEETING HERE TODAY.
RIT-CHAN, CHECK IT OUT! I JUST BOUGHT A NEW GAME! LET'S PLAY!
RIGHT ON! LET'S DO IT. LET'S DO IT!!


HOLY HOPPIN' BUNNIES, YOU'RE LAZY.
PLOP
FLOP
HIYA EVERYONE. COME IN, COME ON IN...

OH ...

BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT TICKETS? MY FEELING IS THEY'RE GONNA BE PRETTY EXPENSIVE.

WHAT.? BUT I WANNA GO TO THE BEACH THIS YEAR TOO.

WE WENT TO THE BEACH LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE THAT, SO MAYBE THIS YEAR WE SHOULD GO TO THE MOUN-TAINS!

BUT ONLY 'COS IT'S A SPECIAL OCCA-SION, ALL RIGHT?

I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME, THEN.

ぴろっ FLASH

GEARING UP JUST TO HAVE FUN... LIKE USUAL.

THAT COULD BE FUN!

BUT WE COULD CATCH FISH IN THE RIVER, AND THEN BARBECUE 'EM.. AND STUFF LIKE THAT

UHHHH- HUH

WHOA!! WAY TO GO, SAWA-CHAN!!

I THINK WE COULD REALLY LEARN A LOT BY SEEING HOW PRO-FESSIONAL BANDS PERFORM.

YOU GUYS, I HAVE AN IDEA. HOW ABOUT GO-ING TO AN OUTDOOR MUSIC FES-TIVAL THIS YEAR?

COULD I GET SOME BARLEY TEA TOO?

SURE

...BUT HOW DO YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE !!?

...LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA TURN OUT THE SAME NO MATTER WHICH WAY WE GO.

ALL RIGHT... SO THE MOUNTAINS, THEN! IT'S DECIDED!!

BARBE-CUE!

OUR HAPPY-GO-LUCKY ATTITUDE ENDS RIGHT NOW!!

LISTEN UP, EVERY-ONE !!

WHAT'S WITH THE GREET-ING?

YAY—!! IT'S THE MOUN-TAINS!! HERE WE ARE, MOUN-TAINS!!

SHEESH, SO DRA-MATIC.

FROM HERE ON OUT IT'S A BATTLE-FIELD! SO YOU GIRLS HAD BETTER PREPARE YOUR-SELVES!

HEH HEH HEH... I COME TO THIS FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR.

I'M CURIOUS, THOUGH, SAWA-CHAN. HOW COME YOU JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE THOSE TICKETS?

WATER AIN'T GONNA CUT IT! YOU NEED A SPORTS DRINK!!

WE'LL BE FINE! WE EVEN BROUGHT THESE TO PREVENT HEAT STROKE.

...SOME FRIENDS WHO WERE SUP-POSED TO COME WITH ME ALL CAN-CELLED AT THE LAST MINUTE.

BUT HOW COME YOU HAD SIX TICK-ETS?

I GUESS SOME PEOPLE JUST REALLY LOVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF EVERY DETAIL.

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SUNBLOCK AND INSECT REPELLENT EITHER!!

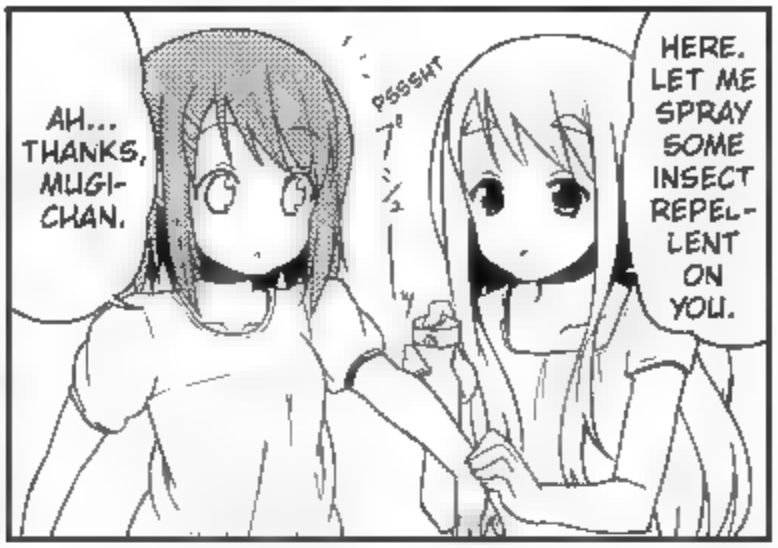
BLAH BLAH

NO! THAT'S NOT IT —!!

OH, SAWA-CHAN., DON'T YOUR FRIENDS LIKE YOU ANY-MORE?

..WELL, MAYBE.

WAAAAAAH!!


AH... THANKS, MUGI-CHAN.
PSSSHT
HERE. LET ME SPRAY SOME INSECT REPEL-LENT ON YOU.

THE LEAD SINGER HAS SUCH A COOL VOICE !!
THIS BAND REALLY ROCKS, HUH!?

THIS KINDA REMINDS ME OF GOING ON THOSE NATURE HIKES BACK IN GRADE SCHOOL.
THANKS!
HERE. YOU TOO, MIO-CHAN.

BUT I WANNA HEAR MORE OF THESE GUYS!
EH?
GIRLS! WE'RE MOVING TO A DIF-FERENT SPOT !!

OH, I'VE GOT IT. I CAN SPRAY MYSELF.
OKAY, NOW IT'S MY TURN TO SPRAY YOU, MUGI-CHAN!

... SENSEI, JUST GO ON YOUR OWN, OKAY?
IT'S A LITTLE FAR, SO WE'RE GONNA SPRINT THERE!
MY FAVOR-ITE BAND HERE IS GONNA BE PLAYING AT SITE B!!

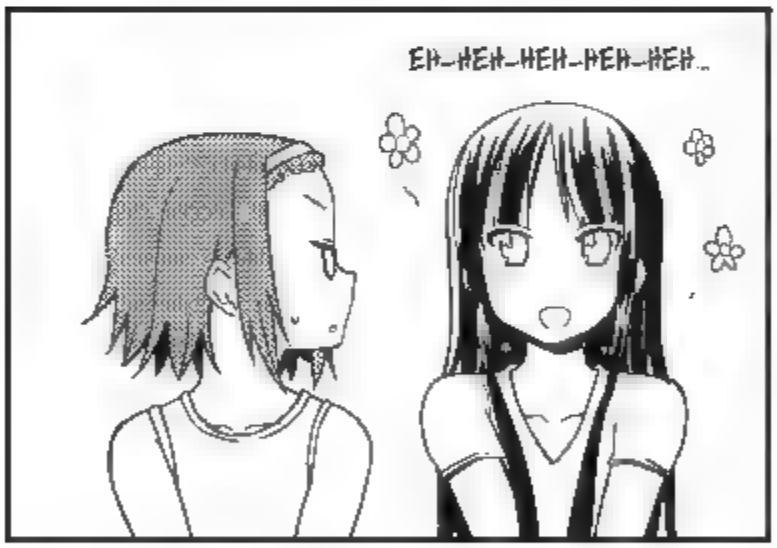
...AND SHE REALLY IS STILL IN GRADE SCHOOL.
UM... ALL RIGHT. THEN PLEASE SPRAY ME.
HEY—!! BUT I WANTED TO DO THE "PSSSHT" PART TOO!

JA-JAAANG
ジャアアアン

じ――――
STAAAARE
WAAAAAAH!!

WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT.
RITSU! RITSU, LOOK! THE GUITARIST IN THIS BAND IS A LEFTY !!

HOPEFULLY THIS'LL INSPIRE HER TO TAKE BAND PRACTICE MORE SERIOUSLY.
じ～～
STARE
YUI-SEN-PAI'S WATCHING THE PERFORMANCE SO INTENTLY.


EH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH..

SURE, WHAT IS IT?
AZU-MEOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA ASK YOU!

OKAY, I GET THAT YOU'RE HAPPY TO FIND ANOTHER LEFTY IN THE WORLD.. BUT COULD YOU PLEASE SHUT UP NOW?
SHAKE
SHAKE
IT REALLY IS WEIRD TO SEE SOMEONE PLAYING LEFT-HANDED, HUH!? I KNOW IT'S KINDA WHATEVER FOR ME TO SAY THAT, BUT . YOU KNOW!

...BUT I GUESS YUI-SEN-PAI WILL ALWAYS BE YUI-SENPAI...
SEE THAT GUY ON BASS? HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE HE GETS HIS HAIR TO STAY UP LIKE THAT?

THAT'S A CHEAP DREAM.

AHHH

I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF EATING YAKISOBA N A PLACE LIKE THIS.

I'M REALLY HUNGRY.

GROWWWL

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STILL GOT A LITTLE TIME BEFORE THE NEXT BAND WE WANNA SEE GOES ON.

NOT BAD !!

LOOK, I PUT IT ON!!

HOW'S IT LOOK?

YAKISOBA FOR ME TOO.

OH GRACIAS!

YAKISOBA IF THEY'VE GOT IT

IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO BUY US SOME LUNCH.

RITSU, LET'S BUY ONE FOR YOU TOO!

THAT'S AWESOME. NOW I WANT ONE FOR MYSELF.

YOU'RE BEING A NUISANCE

KA-BOOM

ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?

DID YOU SEE THE HAIR ON THAT BASSIST IN THE BAND JUST NOW?

I GUESS I'M USED TO IT, THOUGH

SLURP

NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT THE MUSIC... AS USUAL.

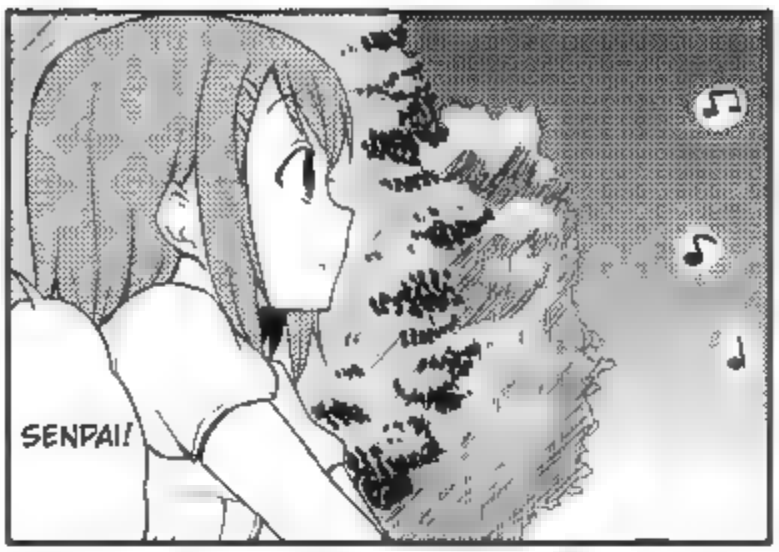
WHAT HAP-PENED TO LUNCH?

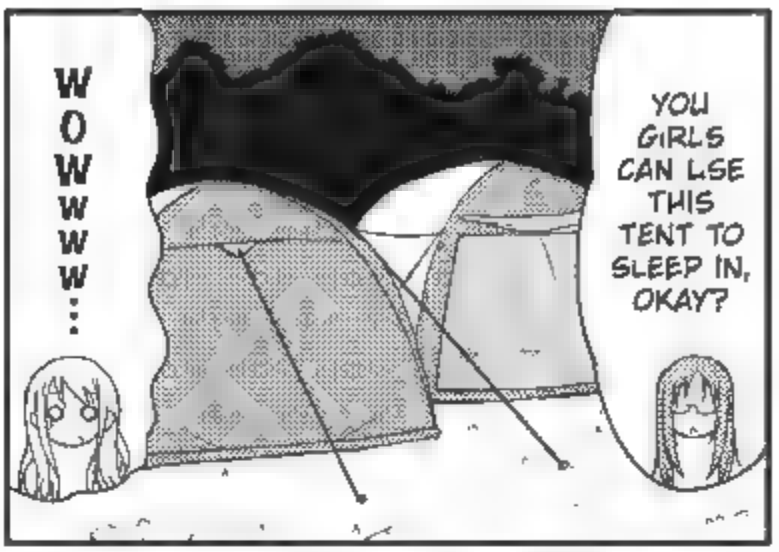
CHOKE

CHOKE

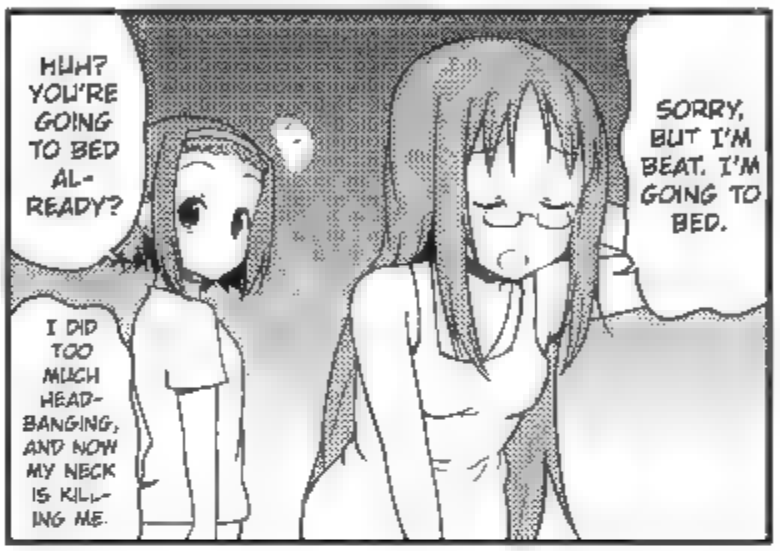
HWUNG

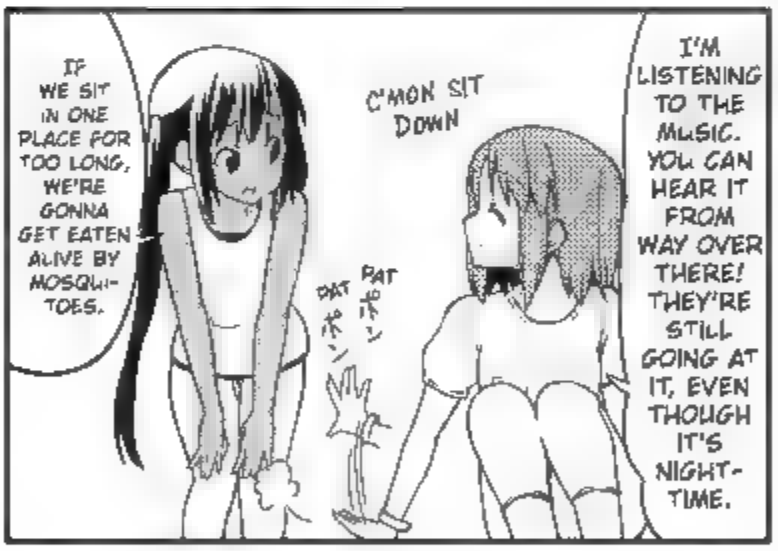
HEY GUYS! THEY WERE SELLING T SHIRTS FOR THE BAND WE JUST SAW!!

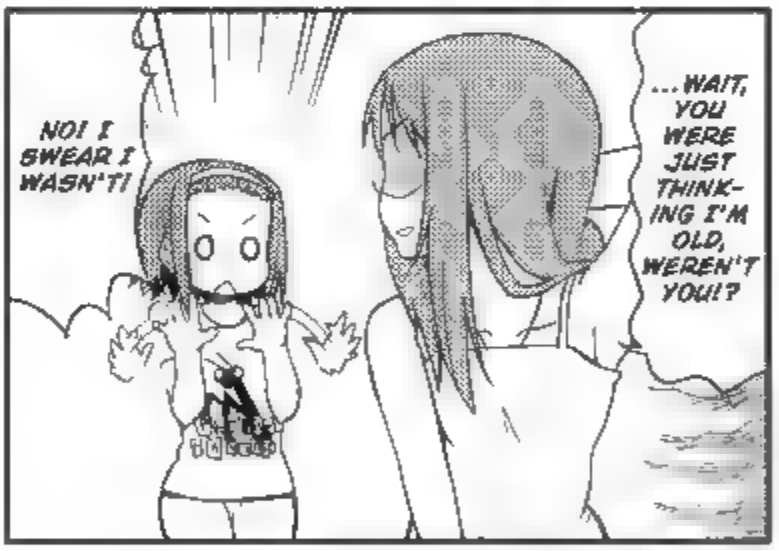

SENPAI!


WOWWW...
YOU GIRLS CAN USE THIS TENT TO SLEEP IN, OKAY?

HOW COME YOU'RE SITTING OVER HERE?
AH... HI AZU-MEOW.


HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO BED AL-READY?
I DID TOO MUCH HEAD-BANGING, AND NOW MY NECK IS KILL-ING ME.
SORRY, BUT I'M BEAT. I'M GOING TO BED.


IF WE SIT IN ONE PLACE FOR TOO LONG, WE'RE GONNA GET EATEN ALIVE BY MOSQUI-TOES.
C'MON SIT DOWN
PAT PAT
I'M LISTENING TO THE MUSIC. YOU CAN HEAR IT FROM WAY OVER THERE! THEY'RE STILL GOING AT IT, EVEN THOUGH IT'S NIGHT-TIME.


NO! I SWEAR I WASN'T!
...WAIT, YOU WERE JUST THINK-ING I'M OLD, WEREN'T YOU!?

KA-CLINK
GOT IT COVERED! I'VE GOT INSECT REPEL-LENT WRIST-BANDS ON BOTH WRISTS!!
WHOA..

I TRIED PUTTING ON SUN-BLOCK, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.
OH, BUT YOU'RE SO CUTE LIKE THIS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I SEE AZUSA'S COM-PLETELY TAN AGAIN THIS YEAR...

OO... THAT'S HITTING BELOW THE BELT.

BEFORE YOU START SPOUTIN' OFF ABOUT HOW MUCH WE ROCK, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU CAN PLAY GUITAR WITHOUT MAKING ANY MISTAKES.

HEY, WHAT-CHU TWO DOIN' OVER THERE? SECRET CONVERSATION?

HERE. YOU CAN HAVE ONE

THANKS!

THAT'S IT — IT'S LIKE OUR AURA!!

NOT A CLUE

"AURA"? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT WORD MEANS?

BUT GUYS, COME ON.. WE'RE SERIOUSLY WAY MORE AMAZING THAN THOSE OTHER BANDS. IT'S LIKE, YOU KNOW, HOW IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE ALL PERFECTLY IN SYNC OR SOMETHING!

JUST DON'T GO RUNNING OFF SOMEWHERE ON YOUR OWN, YOU TWO. WE WERE WORRIED.

WHAT THE HELL...!?

JUMP

N-N-NO!! WE'RE JUST MAKING SMALL TALK, THAT'S ALL!!

NOT YOU TOO, AZUSA!?

BUT SHE'S RIGHT!! WE'RE JUST AS GOOD AS ANY OF THOSE BANDS!!

YEAH, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CALL IT THE ENERGY, OR MAYBE THE POWER OF THE SOUND, BUT IT WAS AMAZING!

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I THOUGHT ALL THE BANDS TODAY WERE REALLY COOL.

...YEAH.

...I JUST WISH WE COULD ALL BE IN THE BAND TOGETHER FOREVER.

COMPARED TO PROFESSIONALS...?? WHAT WORLD DOES SHE LIVE IN!?

BUT OUR PERFORMANCES ARE EVEN MORE AMAZING, RIGHT?

I TOOK TOO LONG GETTING READY... SORRY I'M LATE!
PANT!
PANT!
SEE, LOOK— SHE JUST GOT HERE.
AZUSA-CHAN AND JUN-CHAN AND I HAVE PLANS TO GO TO THE POOL TO-GETHER TODAY.
HI, MY NAME IS UI HIRA-SAWA.
WHEEEN
WHEEEN
HOT
HOT
I JUST KNEW YOU GUYS WERE GONNA SAY THAT!!
WHO ARE YOU?
SHE'S... SHE'LL BE HERE SOON.
SORRY —!
SOOO HOT OUT HERE...! WHERE THE HECK IS AZUSA, ANYWAY?

THE BEACH!?
MY SISTER SAID THEY WENT ON CLUB TRIPS TO THE BEACH LAST YEAR AND THE YEAR BEFORE THAT.

IF I'M OUTSIDE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, I TAN REALLY FAST.
WHY THE HECK ARE YOU SO TAN...?

YOUR OWN STU-DIO!? AND A VACA-TION HOME!?
YEAH, IT'S A WHOLE VACATION HOME WITH ITS OWN STUDIO INSIDE IT'S GOT, LIKE, CRAZY EXPENSIVE AMPS AND THE WHOLE WORKS.

OH, THE WHOLE POP MUSIC CLUB WENT TO GO SEE A SUMMER MUSIC FEST.
WHERE'S "OUTSIDE" ..?

_VACATION HOME_PRIVATE STUDIO
CLUB TRIPS... BEACH...

HEH HEH HEH... YEAH PRETTY COOL, HUH?
SUMMER MUSIC FEST!? I'M SO JEALOUS —!

I TOLD YOU— I HAVE NO RE-GRETS!
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST JOIN THE POP MUSIC CLUB, JUN?

HMPH... WELL... I HAVE NO RE-GRETS!
GUESS YOU SHOULDA JOINED THE POP MUSIC CLUB AFTER ALL, JUN-CHAN.

WAAAH!!

じた FLAP

ばた FLAIL

NO, I MEAN, THAT'S A PERFECT TWO-TONE SHADE YOU GOT GOIN' THERE.

HEH HEH. I BOUGHT IT BRAND-NEW JUST THIS YEAR!

WOW... THAT'S SUCH A CUTE SWIM-SUIT, JUN-CHAN. ♡

OH, AZUSA-CHAN

YOU TWO JUST GO INTO THE POOL ON YOUR OWN TODAY. I'M GONNA BE TANNING ON THE SIDE-LINES.

AZUSA-CHAN... YOU DONE CHANG-ING YET?

ピク

JUMP

WAIT! I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!

L-L-LOOK THE OTHER WAY!!

DARK→

LIGHT

THAT'S WORSE THAN THE PARTIAL TAN, YOU DOOFUS.

WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, A PEARL DIVER?

IF YOU WEAR A SWIMSUIT THAT COV-ERS YOUR WHOLE BODY, PROBLEM SOLVED!

DON'T LAUGH —!!

PFFT.

PFFT-PFFT

OH THANKS.
HAVE SOME YAKISOBA.
HERE YOU GO, JUN-CHAN.

WHEE!
WHEE!

I TOTALLY KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! I THOUGHT THE SAME THING WHEN WE HAD YAKISOBA AT THE SUMMER MUSIC FEST!
MMM... THE YAKISOBA'S ALWAYS SO GOOD AT PLACES LIKE THIS, HUH?

YEAH, ME TOO.
HMM... I KINDA FEEL BAD WITH AZUSA SITTIN' OUT LIKE THAT.

WOW. THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN
AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE? WE SLEPT IN TENTS! BUT IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE GOT ANY SLEEP 'COS WE WERE MAKING SO MUCH NOISE...!

...Ui.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GONNA GO GET HER OVER HERE RIGHT NOW.

I'M SO TOTALLY JEALOUS !!
ALL RIGHT, I ADMIT IT —!!

WHAT, JUST NOW —!??
NOW MY WHOLE BODY'S TAN.

EH-HEH-HEH...I KNOW, RIGHT?

IT MUST BE SO COOL TO BE IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB. ESPECIALLY 'COS OF MIO-SAN. SHE'S SO PRETTY AND GOOD ON THE BASS.

MISS DIPPY

THAT TIME WHEN I VISITED THE POP MUSIC CLUB TO CHECK IT OUT, IT REALLY DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A VERY SERIOUS CLUB.

RIGHT? SEE WHAT I MEAN!!

AND YUI-[redacted] GOT A REALLY GOOD SINGING VOICE!

POINTEDLY

ずいっ

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL, HUH!? HOW COME YOU GUYS GET TA GO ON SO MANY CLUB TRIPS!?

AND LATELY SHE'S REALLY STARTING TO GET BETTER ON THE GUITAR TOO.

SMILE

SMILE

I'LL TAKE YOU GIRLS WITH ME!

I'VE GOT TICKETS HERE..

PRIVATE VACATION HOME!

I HAVE MY OWN...

BUT STILL... SHE WON'T LEARN ANY OF THE TECHNICAL TERMS AND SHE CAN'T READ A NOTE OF MUSIC. SHE'S GOT A LONG WAYS TO GO!

ガーン

SHOCK

OH, THAT MAKES SENSE YOU GUYS ARE SO LUCKY.

I CAN'T TELL HER WE GO FOR FREE..

WE .. WE'VE JUST GOT SO FEW MEMBERS THAT THERE'S PLENTY OF FUNDS TO GO AROUND, THAT'S ALL!

THAT NIGHT

AZUSA, MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOUR SWIMSUIT IN THE WASHING MACHINE!

MOM

ALREADY PUT IT IN—!!

ぬぎ STRIP

ぬぎ STRIP

THAT WAS FUN, HUH?

I WANNA COME BACK AT LEAST ONE MORE TIME BEFORE SUMMER'S OVER!

...I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT.

ほどき UNDO

ほどき UNDO

BEFORE LONG, I'M GONNA BE THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE CLUB.

JUN, YOU COULD STILL JOIN THE POP MUSIC CLUB NOW IF YOU WANTED TO. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YEAH, WELL ..

WE'RE JUST GONNA FOCUS ON MAKING OUR PERFORMANCE AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

RRRM .. STOP! I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT! IT'S JUST GONNA MAKE ME DEPRESSED...!!

SPLASH

HOW ABOUT THIS—IF YOU DON'T GET ANY NEW CLUB MEMBERS NEXT YEAR, THEN I'LL JOIN TO KEEP YOU COMPANY!

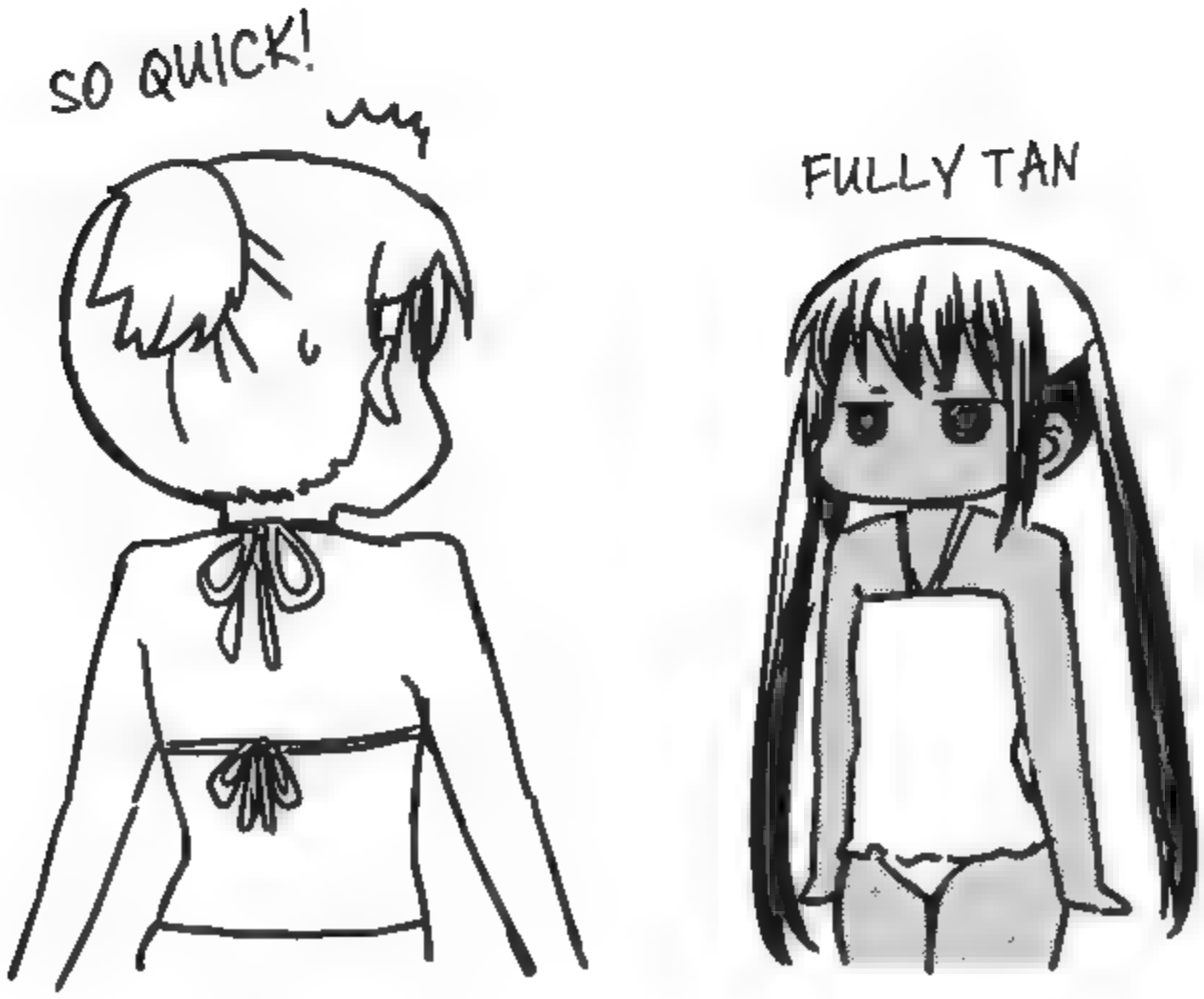
UUUH... I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK ABOUT THAT HAPPENING...

OWWWW—!!

BUT YOU KNOW .. WITHOUT MIO-SENPAI AND THE OTHERS THERE, I REALLY DON'T SEE THE POINT OF JOINING

WHAT—!!?

JUST KIDDING !!


SO QUICK!
FULLY TAN

TOO QUICK!!
FULLY PALE
NEXT DAY

K-ON!
K-ON!

MUSIC ROOM

BA-BOOM

DON DUH-DON

JAL-AAAANG

ジャアア…ン

JA-JANG

DON'CHA THINK SO TOO, MIO?

PERFECT! NO COM-PLAINTS WHATSO-EVER!

WOW... THAT WAS A GOOD ONE JUST NOW!!

BUT WE'RE THE RHYTHM SECTION— WHICH MEANS WE NEED TO KEEP THE RHYTHM!!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS ENERGY... IT'S ALL ABOUT ENERGY!

SLAM

IT WAS REALLY HARD TO KEEP THE RHYTHM!

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK WAS GOOD ABOUT IT. THE DRUMS ARE STILL RACING AHEAD.

OH BROTHER... THERE THEY GO AGAIN.

ぐにー

STREEEEETCH

WHADDAYA MEAN—!!?

HEE-HEE-HEE... YOU TWO ALWAYS GET ALONG SO GREAT TOGETHER, DON'T YOU?

BAM!

OH, IS THAT SO...?

WELL, THAT'S AN EASY ONE. POOR FRIENDLESS MIO HERE CAME PRACTICALLY BEGGING ME TO BE HER FRIEND, AND I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TURN HER AWAY.

...BUT I REALLY DO WONDER SOMETIMES HOW COME MIO-SENPAI AND RITSU-SENPAI ARE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.

OH, COME ON... YOU'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD. ♡

HYUH!!

SO TELL US HOW IT REALLY HAP-PENED !!

GEEZ, IT WAS JUST A LITTLE JOKE...

SNEL

DON'T GO AROUND TELLING LIES.

ALL RIGHT! BREAK TIME'S OVER! LET'S GET BACK TO PRAC-TICE!!

LET'S GO, AZUSA ...

WHAT...?

WE REEEEEEALLY WANNA HEAR!

BU...BUT IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL, NOTHING REALLY WORTH TALKING ABOUT...

YOU MAY AS WELL JUST RESIGN YOURSELF TO IT, MIO.

UUUH

じ STAAARE

*AZUSA'S I-REALLY-WANNA-HEAR AURA

YOU TOO, AZUSA!?

I GOT THE FEELING ALL SHE EVER DID WAS READ BOOKS.

...WHEN MIO WAS LITTLE, SHE WAS A REALLY QUIET AND MEEK YOUNG THING.

BUT ONE DAY ...

SHE WAS WAY MORE SHY THAN SHE IS NOW EVEN.

C'MON ... LEMME SEE!

ビクッ

JUMP

WHAT-CHA READ-IN'!?

STAAARE

HEH HEH

WHOA, MIO-CHAN! YOU'RE GOOD AT DRAWIN' TOO!!

EEEK!

HOLY MOLY!! 100 POINTS...!!

EEEK!

HER REACTIONS WERE SO FUNNY THAT I JUST KEPT MESSING WITH HER CONSTANTLY.

NO, IT WASN'T BULLYING. YOU KNOW HOW WHEN YOU WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL YOU JUST ALWAYS WANTED TO MESS WITH THE KIDS YOU LIKED? THAT'S TOTALLY WHAT IT WAS.

...DON'T WE USUALLY CALL THAT "BULLYING"?

THAT SOUNDS SO FUN. I WISH I COULDA MESSED WITH HER TOO...

SMILE

SMILE

C'MERE, RITSU. GIMME YOUR FOREHEAD

AND NOW THAT I'M REMEMBERING, IT'S MAKING ME MAD ALL OVER AGAIN.

HUH? WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

WELL, OBVIOUSLY.

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL BEING MESSED WITH LIKE THAT?

BUT I GUESS AT THE BEGINNING WE DIDN'T REALLY GET ALONG TOO WELL, DID WE?

DON'T WORRY. IT'S WATER-SOLUBLE.

MY FOREHEAD !

PFTT.. HEE-HEE-HEE..

KBOOOO

FOREHEAD: EYE

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, MIO? IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S SOME REALLY EMBARRASSING SECRET OR ANYTHING.

WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE, RIGHT?

WHAT, YOU WANNA HEAR MORE ...!?

SO...?? TELL US WHEN YOU GUYS STARTED TO BE FRIENDS !!

THE PROBLEM WAS, THE PERSON WHO WON THE AWARD HAD TO GET UP DURING ASSEMBLY AND READ THEIR ESSAY IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL.

I THINK IT WAS WHEN I WAS IN FOURTH GRADE. BUT ANYWAY, I WON AN AWARD FROM THE PREFECTURE FOR ONE OF MY ESSAYS.

KYAAAH!!

OOH- OOH- I'M A THREE-EYED ALIEN MONSTER!

.....

...I REMEMBER RITSU CAME OVER AND ASKED ME WHAT WAS THE MATTER.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I WAS REALLY DEPRESSED BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT. BUT THEN...

'COS I'M TOO EMBARRASSED.

WHY NOT?

WHAT? YOU DON'T WANNA READ YOUR ESSAY...?

HOW COME? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE CLASS WHO WON AN AWARD, YOU KNOW.

IT'S NOT AWESOME... NOT AWESOME AT ALL!!

WHAT'S THERE TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT!? IT'S AWESOME YOU WON!

IF IT WAS ME, I'D BE OUT BRAGGIN' TO EVERY-ONE.

IN THAT CASE, I WISH YOU WOULDA WON THE STUPID AWARD—! I DON'T WAN-NA READ THAT THING IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!!

JUMP

JYAGUCHI

UH... S-SORRY.

BADUM

BADUM

..I DIDN'T KNOW MIO-CHAN HAD IT IN HER TO RAISE HER VOICE LIKE THAT.

GLOOM

しょん・・・

HEY!!

IT'S LIKE... SHE'S KINDA INTER-ESTING!!

BUT... BUT...

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT!! JUST COME OVER!!

EH...? EHH!?

COME ON OVER TO MY PLACE!! LET'S DO A TRIAL RUN!!

PLEASE BEGIN!!

...I PRESENT YOU WITH A STUDENT FROM THE FOURTH GRADE, CLASS ONE. GIVE IT UP FOR STUDENT NUMBER ONE— MIO AKIYAMA-SAN!

...AND NOW, YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLE-MEN...

WHAT?

...I CAN'T DO IT...

TANGERINES

HRMMM...

OH, I KNOW!!

TH... THAT'S NOT REALLY THE PROBLEM...

HERE. YOU WANT THE STAGE HIGHER?

PLUMS

...AND THEN TIE THIS UP LIKE SO!!

キュッ TUG

?

WE'LL JUST TAKE THIS OFF...

すっ SLIP

へたん PLOP

~3

I'M A PINE-APPLE !!

...WHAT AM I LOOKING AT...?

ALL DONE!!

THERE!

PWFF!

BUT I CAN'T DO A POTATO VERY WELL, SO I'M A PINEAPPLE INSTEAD!

YOU KNOW WHAT MY DAD SAYS TO DO WHEN I GET NERVOUS? "PRETEND EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE IS A POTATO!" I'M NOT KIDDING, THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME!

...HEE HEE HEE...

YOU... YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE A PINE-APPLE...

GIGGLE GIGGLE

HUH?

I'M-A WIT-TLE PINE-AP-PLE~

AND NEXT WE HAVE MIO AKIYAMA FROM THE FOURTH GRADE, CLASS ONE...

THANKS TO RITSU'S ADVICE, I WAS ABLE TO RELAX AND GET THROUGH IT.

WHAT A WONDERFUL STORY! ♡

YOU USED TO BE A REALLY NICE GIRL BACK IN THE DAY, DIDN'CHA, RITSU-SENPAI!

IT DOESN'T REALLY SEEM IN CHARACTER FOR YOU...

CAN'T YOU GUYS JUST GIVE PRAISE WHERE PRAISE IS DUE, FOR CHRISSAKE?

OH!

SO DID THE WHOLE ESSAY-READING THING GO OKAY?

EXTREMELY FLOWERY ♡

WELL... IT WAS MIO'S ESSAY, AFTER ALL, SO OF COURSE IT WAS ALL FLOWERS AND FAIRIES AND CRAP.

I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO FILL IN THE DETAILS

SCRATCH SCRATCH

AH...

YEAH...ALL KINDS OF STUFF...

THAT'S RIGHT! I REMEMBER TEACHING YOU ALL KINDS OF STUFF!

BUT I GUESS THAT WAS THE START, HUH? IT SEEMS LIKE I WENT OVER TO HANG OUT AT YOUR PLACE QUITE A BIT AFTER THAT.

...ALL KINDS OF STUFF, INDEED.

YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT THAT'S THE IDEA!

MY, UM..THE NAME'S MIO AKIYAMA, DAWG

THE SECRET TO GETTING OVER YOUR SHYNESS IS HAVING CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF! AND THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO FIX IS THE WAY YOU TALK! IF YOU END EVERY SENTENCE WITH "DAWG," PEOPLE ARE GONNA THINK YOU'RE BRIMMING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE!

YOU KNOW, I THINK MAYBE IT WAS A MISTAKE TO SEEK HELP FROM YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHOCK

HWEH?

...IN FACT, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME ONE USEFUL THING.

...I THINK I HAFTA SAY I AM GRATEFUL YOU ENCOURAGED ME TO GET INTO MUSIC... YEAH.

...STILL...

BUT JUST A SECOND AGO YOU SAID A RUDE THING TOO!!

MIO-CHAN!! TH-THAT WAS JUST MEAN!

HUH—!?

MIO-SHAN...

RIGHT!!

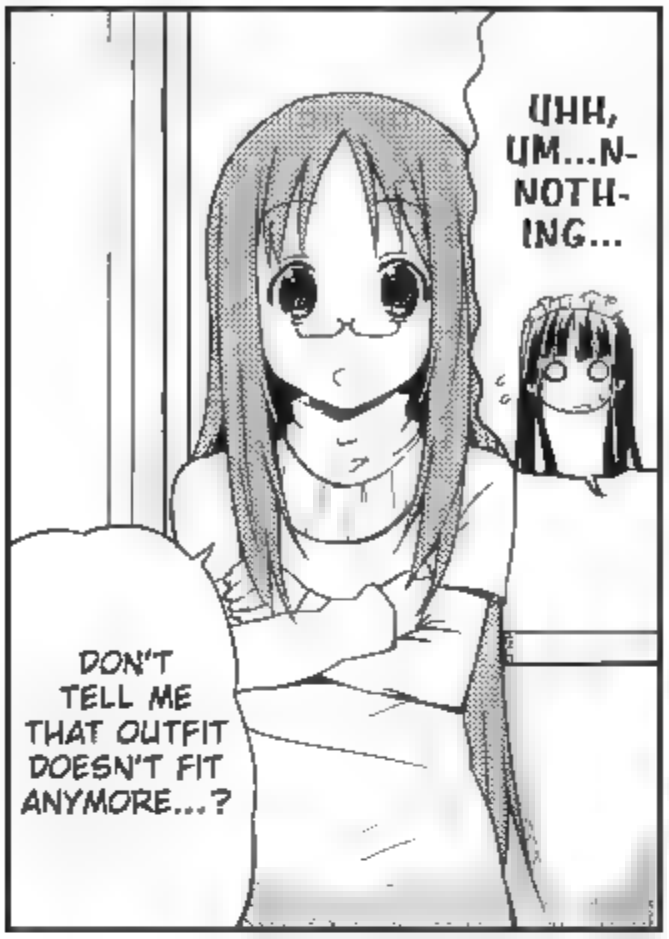
N-NOW BREAK TIME REALLY IS OVER! LET'S GET BACK TO PRACTICE—!

HELLO, THIS IS KAKIFLY.
THE ONLY REASON I WAS ABLE TO GET THIS THIRD VOLUME OUT AT ALL WAS BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT FROM YOU, THE PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN SO KINDLY READING THIS SERIES, AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART! IT FEELS LIKE MY WHOLE LIFE THIS YEAR HAS BEEN *K-ON!* IN THE MORNING TO *K-ON!* IN THE EVENING. SO THIS THIRD VOLUME IS TRULY THE CULMINATION OF MY YEAR. I HOPE THAT YOU ALL ENJOY IT, BECAUSE NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER. I PLAN TO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MYSELF UTTERLY TO THIS SERIES, SO I BEG YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.
THANKS VERY MUCH, EVERYONE.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO MY EDITOR "S-HARA" FOR BEING SUCH A ROYAL PAIN IN THE NECK ALL THE TIME!!

KAKIFLY

Bonus Comics



ALL RIGHT, THEN— I'LL BE HAPPY TO FIX 'EM FOR YOU. JUST TELL ME WHERE EXACTLY THEY'RE NOT FITTING RIGHT.
MINE DOESN'T FIT ANYMORE EITHER!
AFTER ALL, I MADE THOSE OUTFITS OVER A YEAR AGO
WELL, I GUESS YOU ARE AT THAT AGE. DON'T WORRY— IT'S NOTHING TO BE EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT.

JELLO !?

?

IF BOTH SIDES GET TAKEN OFF AT THE SAME TIME, I START TURNING TO JELLO.

IT TURNS OUT MUGI-CHAN'S EYE-BROWS ARE TAKUAN PICKLES. THEY'RE YUMMY.

SLURP じ~43!

THE STORY SO FAR...

©KYOTO ANIMATION

あわわわ

FRANTIC

IF WE DON'T PUT MORE TAKUAN SLICES ON RIGHT AWAY, THEN..

どう～

BLUB

NO FAIR JUST YUI EATIN' 'EM ALL THE TIME... I WANT ONE TOO!

RITSU

HEY MUGI-CHAN, LEMME HAVE ONE OF YOUR TAKUAN BROWS.

YUI

WE'VE GOT NO TIME! JUST STICK ON WHAT-EVER YOU CAN FIND!

RITSU

B-BUT-BUT... THERE AREN'T GONNA BE ANY TAKUAN AT SCHOOL!

YUI

YUM!

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOOD WITH PROTRAC-TORS?

I LOOK AT THESE!

ALL BET-TER!

ピヨーン

BEEEEP

JUMP

ピヨーン

BEEEEP

the term stands in contrast to classical/traditional music and refers to typical pop music.

PAGE 27
Valentine's Chocolate
Valentine's Day in Japan is a big deal for girls. Girls give chocolate to boys they like—even better if it's in the form of homemade fudge—and then any interested boys reciprocate one month later on White Day (March 14), when they give white-themed presents (like marshmallows or white lingerie) to their pick of the girls who gave them chocolate on Valentine's Day.

PAGE 34
Yui's Collection of Toys
Yui is talking about the UFO Catcher game, where you can pay ¥100 or ¥200 for a chance to grab various toys with a robot claw arm.

PAGE 37
Sawako's Guitar
From the picture on page 35 and the description on page 37, the guitar seems to be an early-model Gibson SG Standard, the same model played by the likes of Eric Clapton in the 1960s. An early Gibson SG guitar in prime condition can easily sell for upwards of US$20,000

PAGE 49
NEET
"NEET" is an acronym for "Not in Education, Employment, or Training." It's a technical term in both the UK and Japan, referring to the class of relatively young (defined as between the ages of 15 and 34 in Japan) individuals who are unemployed, not in any school or job training, and neither actively seeking work nor engaging in any productive but unpaid economic activity (such as housework).

PAGE 53
Bo Curry & Otsu Curry
Nagaoka's brand of curry is an obvious play on Otsuka Foods' well-known Bon Curry brand of boil-in-the-pouch curries. Yui's brand of curry is based on a pun: *o-tsukare* ("Good work," an end-of-day farewell greeting in Japanese offices) vs. *otsu-kare* ("B curry," an old and well-established joke from online chat rooms).

PAGE 53
Takoyaki
Takoyaki is a kind of fried dumpling filled with octopus bits, ginger, and green onions and served with mayonnaise and a Japanese-style sweet BBQ sauce. It's common to buy them from street vendors, especially in the Kansai region, the area where the dish was invented and is still most strongly associated with.

PAGE 57
Kinkakuji
The Kinkakuji (literally "Temple of the Golden Pavilion") is one of the best-known and most-visited historical sites in Kyoto. The main building is a small Zen Buddhist temple with the top two stories covered in gold leaf. It's surrounded by a moat and gardens.

PAGE 57
Kyoto Dialect
There's no way to translate the differences in dialects of Japanese into English except by exploiting dialect differences in English to give some of the flavor of what's going on. The Kyoto dialect (and the dialect of the Kansai region in general) tends to be perceived in Japan as harsher in tone and also more colorful in expression than standard Japanese, so I've opted for a super-urbanized New York dialect as a fairly close match in feel

PAGE 58
Arashiyama
Arashiyama is a scenic mountainous area to the west of Kyoto. It's known for its river views and the bands of wild monkeys that live in the area.

PAGE 64
Hair Salon
It's sort of a stock phrase for hairdressers in Japan to ask their customers if they feel any itching while their hair is being worked on.

PAGE 66
Intonation
In musical terms, the intonation (called

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr /Mrs./ Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

***-senpai*:** Used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

K-ON!

The title *K-ON!* comes from the Japanese word *"kei-ongaku,"* meaning "light music" in the sense of casual or easy listening (i e., not serious or innovative as in serious classical or jazz). In the context of school clubs in Japan, the term *"kei-ongaku-bu"* ("light music club") usually contrasts with *"ongaku-bu"* ("music club") in that it focuses on popular forms of music (pop, rock, folk, etc.) where the latter focuses on symphonic and choral forms.

kakifly

The author's name, "kakifly," comes from the Japanese word *"kaki furai,"* meaning "fried oysters." It seems to be a running joke, as the author comments for this and future volumes reference his feelings toward oysters

Yen Conversion

A general rule of thumb to use for converting Japanese yen to American dollars is ¥100 to 1 USD.

PAGE 3

New Year's Shrine Visit

A New Year's shine visit (*hatsumode*) refers to the Japanese tradition of visiting one's loca neighborhood Shinto shrine immediate y after the change of the year.

Heated Table

The "heated table" (*kotatsu*) is a typica piece of furniture in Japanese sitting rooms. It's a small coffee table with a space heater mounted to the unaerside and qui ted mate rial draped around the sides to trap the heat in the space underneath.

PAGE 4

New Year's Cards

In Japan, New Year's cards (*nengajo*) serve the purpose that Christmas cards or other holiday greeting cards do in the U.S. You're expected to send them to all your friends and coworkers, along with any partners or clients you do (or hope to do) business with.

PAGE 7

Fortunes

On a New Year's shrine visit, it's traditional to make a donation to the shrine and get a fortune for the new year in return. The range of possible fortunes at most shrines is as follows:

[GOOD]
"Best" (*dai-kichi*) > "Much Better" (*chu-kichi*) > "Little Better" (*sho-kichi*) > "Good" (*kichi*)
[SO-SO]
"Less Good" (*han-kichi*) > "Marginally Good" (*sue-kichi*) > "Barely Good" (*sue-sho-kichi*)
[BAD]
"Bad" (*kyo*) > "Little Worse" (*sho-kyo*) > "Getting Worse" (*han-kyo*) > "Much Worse" (*sue-kyo*) > "Worst" (*dai-kyo*)

PAGE 8

Clang and Clap

When offering prayers at a Shinto shrine, it's usual to ring the bell (to summon the attention of the spirits) and then clap your hands together twice (for the same reason), holding them together after the second clap as you make your prayer.

Pop Music Club

"Pop Music Club" is literally "Light Music Club" (*"kei-ongaku-bu,"* used in the sense discussed in the note above), but in this context

"octave tuning" in Japanese) of an instrument describes the degree to which the notes sound at the correct pitch (i.e., "in tune") independent of how they're played on the instrument.

Half of a Half of a Half-tone Off
In other words, an eighth-tone. Most people aren't sensitive to such microchanges in pitch, but human ears can be trained to perceive differences that small, and some people are even born with the ability to perceive them without any training

PAGE 67
Mut-tan
The suffix *–tan* is a cutesy form of *–chan*, and the first syllable of "Mustang" gets shortened to Mu[.] in Japanese, where the [.] represents a doubling of the consonant that follows (in this case a "t"). But of course Tsumugi's nickname "Mugi" can also be shortened to Mu[.] by the same process, so this sounds like a cutesy form of Mugi-chan.

PAGE 73
Yosakoi
The Yosakoi is a festive and very lively fusion dance unique to Japan, combining traditional costumes and choreographic elements with modern music. It's commonly performed in summer, often in group competitions at festivals or sports meets.

PAGE 75
Entrance Exams
Most high school students in Japan devote their entire senior year to preparation for standardized college entrance exams. Doing well on these exams is a vital component of acceptance to a good school, so schools and parents put a lot of pressure on college-bound students to study intensively and avoid distractions like part-time jobs and boy/girlfriends.

PAGE 81
Drum Mamire
This is a play on Konami's *DrumMania* music video game. The word *mamire* means "filthy with," so the parodied name "covered with/filthy with drums" is meant to sound similar to "drummania."

PAGE 92
Yakisoba
Yakisoba are pan-fried noodles with meat and vegetables and a sweet-savory sauce Most outdoor fairs of any sort will have a *yakisoba* booth.

PAGE 95
Wheeen Wheeen
This specifically refers to the sound that cicadas make in the summer.

PAGE 110
Prefecture
A prefecture (*ken*) in Japan is a regiona division of government corresponding more or less to a state in the U.S.

PAGE 111
JYAGUCHI T-shirt
Jyaguchi (normally romanized as "*jaguchi*") means "faucet" (and sure enough, sports a picture of a dripping faucet). I believe it's making fun of Mari Yaguchi (of Morning Musume fame) goods, of which there are plenty.

PAGE 117
Dawg
The sentence ending that Ritsu mentions is *da ze*, a sort of macho slangy version of the more generic *da yo* and roughly equivalent to something like "man" (as in "Let's go, man") in English.

PAGE 118
–shan
–shan is just a cutesy variation of *–san* that expresses the intimacy of *–chan* without any of the condescension.

COVER
Ritsu's drumkit is a Yamaha Rick Marotta Signature Hipgig kit in Mellow Yellow finish. (It's a pretty expensive kit, retailing for around US$4000.)

AUTHOR NOTE (opposite)
The left-handed guitar and bass shown at left (kakifly's own) are a Fender Classic Series '65 Mustang (a favorite of Kurt Cobain) and a Fender American Standard Jazz Bass.

kakifly

COMMENTS

Hi, my name is kakifly. Raw oysters are really delicious, aren't they? Thank you so much for buying my manga.

THANK YOU FOR READING.

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K-ON! ③

KAKIFLY

Translation: Jack Wiedrick

Lettering: Hope Donovan

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